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AND

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MARRIAGE.

At Man'a, on the 15th March, by the Rev. Goodrich, GEORGE PHILIP LAMBERT, of Hongkong, to MARY ALICE LIDDELL, youngest daughter of A. G. AITKEN, of Hongkong.

DEATH.

At St. Saviour's Home, London, on or about the 7th February, 1900, JEANIE FOSTER HOLMES, widow of Henry J. Holmes, Esq., late of Hongkong, deceased.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 2nd February arrived, per M. M. steamer *Annam*, on the 12th March (38 days); and the English mail of the 16th February arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Massilia*, on the 16th March (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

There is a probability of a second native regiment from India being stationed in Singapore.

Lieut. G. C. Brook, of the Border Regiment, has been selected for service with the Chinese Regiment at Wei-hai-wei.

It was announced on the 12th inst. that telegraphic communication between Macao and Hongkong, which was interrupted on the 2nd instant, has been restored.

The homeward bound French Mail *Indus* left Singapore on the 5th inst. with H. H. Prince Kamin, who is on his way to the Paris Exhibition as representative of Japan.

Rear-Admiral Yeh, of the Chinese Navy, who is making a tour of inspection, paid his respects to His Excellency the Governor at Government House, Hongkong, on the 16th inst.

Mr. J. H. Gubbins, of Her Majesty's Legation in Tokio, has been nominated British *Chargé d'Affaires pro tem.* in Seoul, during the absence of Mr. Jordan, who goes home on leave for 18 months.

A writer in the *Shanghai Mercury* states that there appears no immediate prospect of the Wei-hai-wei Barracks being built. "The ground has been carefully marked out," he says "and I have even heard that the contract has been settled, but I have not heard where the money is coming from. Perhaps Oom Paul will make a little contribution later on. In the meantime, new officers for the Chinese Regiment keep coming along and more native houses are being put in order for present requirements, which smacks rather of the 'penny wise pound foolish' system."

The Seoul correspondent of the *Nippon*, writing about the Un-san mine affair, says the firm front maintained by the Korean Government against the British demand for a concession (even to the extent of resisting it by a display of force) would seem due neither (as has been generally reported) to a protest from any foreign Power nor to a desire on the part of Korea to work the mine herself; but principally owing to the insufficiency of the "tip" offered by the British to the Korean officials. "Now, however, the British appear to have discovered the secret at the bottom of the whole affair, and propose to convey some 800 ryo of gold into the pockets of the native officials, so as to put a stop to the trouble. The British, confident of their final victory over the Koreans, are now collecting Japanese miners, in addition to fifty recently engaged, so that mining operations may be commenced at any moment."

A Peking telegram received in Shanghai on the 5th inst. stated that a number of the members of the Imperial College of Physicians were called on Saturday, the 3rd instant, into the Palace to prescribe for the Emperor, as His Majesty had been seriously ill since the morning of that day. It is generally believed in local mandarin circles that this is but the beginning of the end and that it is doubtful whether Kwang Hsu will be able to last a month longer. The *Shanghai Mercury* reports the determination of the Empress Dowager to have the Imperial Palace at Jeho repaired. Perhaps the Emperor Kwang Hsu's health demands a change of air to that healthy quarter. This is the construction officials are putting on the order, at any rate. The palace there has not been occupied since the stirring time when French and English armies made their presence felt in Chih-li. Since that time it is said that the buildings within the beautiful grounds have fallen into ruin.

The *Nippon* discusses the question of Russia's loan to Korea. The amount is said to be 12 million dollars (gold), or 24 million yen, and five million dollars have already been paid to Korea. Considering that Korea's income is only 3½ million yen, and her expenditure 4½ millions, our contemporary concludes that the Russian loan is dictated by considerations other than financial. Russia is compared to the "following wolf" of the Japanese fable, which waits to attack the traveller until some trouble interrupts the even progress of his journey. Russia is now all smiles, but when Korea fails to pay back the debt, she will find herself confronted by a frowning Minos. In borrowing from St. Petersburg, she may be said to have sought the loan of coins to pay for her own passage across the Styx. The *Nippon* admits that Japan would gladly pursue a similar policy towards Korea, and did indeed pursue it in the past. But when it comes to a competition of purses, Japan is not in the running with Russia.

The agitation at Penang for the use of the Hill for building-ground and for a health resort is growing gradually stronger. The unofficial members of the Legislative Council are all in favour of the scheme, but they are outnumbered. The matter has been taken up very warmly in Singapore and feeling seems strongly in favour of the unofficial party at Penang.

In the Japanese naval manoeuvres at the end of this month all the war-ships and torpedo boats, excepting those on service on foreign stations, will be made to take part so that altogether there will be over sixty vessels engaged. The *Shikishima* and torpedo destroyers now on their way home will join if they reach Japan in time, and if their condition allows it.

The *D'Entrecasteaux*, the French flagship, which arrived at Hongkong on the 13th inst., is a first class cruiser, of 8,114 tons displacement, built at La Seyne at a cost of £867,740 and was launched in 1896. Her gun-position armour is 10—2½ in. and her deck armour 4 in. She carries two 9.4, two 5.5 quick-firing and twelve 1.8 in guns and six torpedo-tubes, and her speed is nineteen knots.

The death is announced on the 5th inst. of Chin Chi, Prince of Kehchin and therefore tenth in precedence at Court among the chief Princely Houses at Peking. The deceased held during three reigns on succession the posts of Grand Chamberlain, Inspector-General of armies, Commander-in-chief of the Imperial Guards, Captain-General of a Banner Corps, and Commandant of the Rifle Brigade of the Peking Field Force.

According to an official despatch, says *The Nagasaki Press*, the Chinese Government has asked the Foreign Ministers at Peking to consent to the levy of an additional import duty on merchandise, to cover the funds required for the construction of Shantung harbours. The despatch further states that the Ministers have given their consent to the proposal, and the additional taxation will be levied until the construction of the harbours is completed.

A writer in the *Courier Saigonnais*, who thinks that the reparation made in Kwang-chau for the outrage of 12th November is not proportionate to the crime says that the territory ceded is quite insufficient both from a military point of view and for the development of commercial interests. He trusts that an over-hasty ratification of the agreement has not precluded a rectification of the boundaries of the concession and calls for an extension on the mainland, "which should not meet with more difficulties than the English extension at Kowloon." If Kowloon is to be a real precedent there is a long time to wait at Kwang-chau before the extension is brought about.

The *Echo de Chine* reports the occupation of the Extension of the French Settlement by the French Municipal Council on the 1st instant. The police traversed the various quarters of Pabienjao and the West Gate without encountering the least difficulty. Everything passed off with perfect order and calm. The Chinese population showed no excitement; it accepted, on the contrary, the new order of things as one accepts an event that has been foreseen and expected. Desiron, the *Echo* says, as the Municipal Council is to give a less repulsive aspect to its new acquisitions, it will nevertheless require months and perhaps years before the work necessitated by the present state of the Extension will be completed.

WHAT WROTE TO FRENCH POLICY.

(Daily Press, 10th March.)

We owe a good deal to our very unamiable next-door neighbour in Europe. The opportunity for exercising her peculiar talent for slander seemed to have arrived with the outbreak of the Boer war in South Africa, and she has spared no pains in seeking to poison the minds of the whole world against England. To do this she has not scrupled to act the part of jackal to her great neighbour Russia. It would be expecting too much to suppose that Russia should not take advantage of this very useful piece of self-sacrifice on the part of her humble servitor, especially as France has asked nothing back save the platonic reward of gazing at her from a distance; but it is to her honour that she has not stooped to offer her caresses in return for France's obsequious attentions. However that may be, the events of last year have thrown a very unpleasant light into the depths of self-negation to which France, in her pursuit of her aims, has not hesitated to descend.

Except in the traditional dislike of the islander, extending as far back as the wars of Edward III., there seems no reason for this rooted antipathy. England has always refrained from attacking France, and has looked on with sympathy at her distresses. This has been met by a spirit of incessant "nagging" and discontent, and an openly vaunted striving to take advantage of any difficulty in which her neighbour may be involved. We need only allude to her exquisite enjoyment of the disaster to Hicks Pacha and his army to illustrate this sentiment of unamiability. For many years France carried on, even against her own palpable interests, this system of "pin pricks" in Egypt, but failed to enlist the sympathy of a single Power. The only result in Egypt has been to force our hand, and to tighten still further our hold on the land. It is, however, with France's action in the Far East generally and with China in particular that we are more immediately concerned. We have all from time to time been made aware of certain mysterious telegrams arriving in China, which have professed to report some dire disaster as having been undergone by British arms in Africa. By the British communities these have been treated with contempt which in each case has been justified by subsequent information. It is only recently that the time, source, and intention of these lying telegrams has become manifest, and circumstances have seemed to indicate that those that have been made public indicate but a small portion of the whole which have been concocted in Paris and carefully sent to the French Legation in Peking, where they have by underground channels found their way to the Tsungli Yamen. From the Tsungli Yamen in turn they have been carefully sent to the provinces, with the suggestion that as England was hopelessly defeated in Africa there was no further need to pay any attention to her requests, and the time was come when an end could be made to all Englishmen in China. In the present condition of France, it is of course useless to appeal to her better feelings, or point out how injurious to her own interests such a suicidal policy must be. *Hodie mihi, cras tibi* is a proverb there is little use in quoting. Its effects are unfortunately at the moment confusing the whole of our intercourse with China, and not only with China, but with the surrounding peoples who are apt to take their inspiration to Peking. There is little doubt it was from inspiration thus received from Peking that

the recent outrages in Shantung owe their origin, and that British Missionaries have been the first to suffer from the affronts of the mob, incited from the Yamen, who owed to Peking the suggestion. In Burma even before the news of the murderous attack on the boundary Commission came to hand we find the Headman at Panglong threatening the escort of the boundary Commission. The *Rangoon Gazette* of the 27th January mentioned a telegram received in Yunnan, to the effect that the British were destroyed in South Africa, followed by the usual result, that the next day by order of the Taotai an English Missionary was beaten in the streets of the provincial capital close by the Viceroy's Yamen. These, be it remembered, were antecedent to attacks on the Commission itself, regarding which information seems still to be mysteriously kept back. Nor is this all. We find in Korea a similar position of affairs in full play. Last summer Mr. PRITCHARD MORGAN entered into an agreement with the Government of that country, giving him permission to select certain localities for the opening of mines. The contract was made openly through the British Legation, and acting on it Mr. MORGAN selected a site at Unsan, and through the *Chargé d'Affaires* informed the Government of the fact, and proceeded to enter on possession. No reason was specified, but the Government proceeded to interfere, doubtless under the impression that, England being "finished," the time had arrived to expel the Englishman. There can be but little doubt whence the suggestion came in this instance, and we were glad to see the British authorities becoming alive to the importance of the case, evidently intended as a feeler from Peking to test the intentions of the British government with regard to similar concessions in China. Everywhere we find the same rumours laboriously circulated. The mob at Yunnan-fu only repeated the parrot-cry with regard to the assault in Yunnan: "He is only an Englishman, and has no country." It is strange that French diplomatists fail to see that a mob once excited has no regard to persons, and that what happens to an Englishman to-day to-morrow will happen to a Frenchman. If England be unable to take vengeance, the experiences of France in the past might tell her how little capable she is herself in undertaking a campaign even against China.

INSPIRATION AT PEKING.

(Daily Press, 13th March.)

The news from the North continues to be of a startling nature, and, in the present explosive condition of European politics, is worthy of more consideration than the British Government has been disposed to devote to it. The minds of the British public both at home and in the Far East have been so absorbed over the situation in South Africa that there has scarcely been a thought of what was brewing in China and the Pacific generally, and it is in the hope of recalling attention to this very important subject that we have dwelt with so much persistency on what to many may seem a trite and insignificant topic. We are well aware of the comments likely to be made in such a case, and of the penalties attaching to the part of a Cassandra, yet with our knowledge of what is being prepared we should be lacking in our duty did we fail to draw the attention of the public, and of those in power, to the real condition of affairs. We may derive some consolation from the example of South Africa. These plain warnings were con-

temptuously set aside, not only by the Government, but even more persistently by the bulk of the Opposition. The result was, as we know, that instead of being in a position to declare war and take the offensive we were compelled to fall back, to have a large portion of Natal overrun, and our strength wasted in relieving the beleaguered camp at Ladysmith. Now the same influences which were at work in Pretoria to stir up a serious war, having for its object our final withdrawal from South Africa, have been notoriously at work also in Peking to render our position in China untenable. The ominous reports which we have published from all parts of the Empire fully bear out all that we have previously said, from well-informed sources, on this important subject. The whole of China is now in a state of ebullition, and it is no longer a matter of doubt that large numbers of the Chinese are only awaiting a leader to rise in mass against the Empress Dowager and her crew. The affair of the Emperor has sunk into a secondary place, but by his electing to place himself at the head of his Chinese subjects it is indubitable that the race element is entering largely into the present ferment, and the Dowager, astute in many things as she undoubtedly is, by endeavouring to supersede the Chinese element and restore Manchu rule has aided and assisted in provoking an uprising. Had the Manchus preserved anything of their pristine vigour it might have been possible to have overawed the unwarlike Chinese, but the events of the Japanese War, and the utter collapse of Peking, have indicated to the nation at large that as a military force the Manchus are beneath contempt, and the Chinese troops, on whom the suppression of any national rising must eventually fall, are certainly not prepared to take up the cause of the race which, in their eyes, is still foreign. Meanwhile the audience, intended to show that the Emperor was still alive, has weakened, rather than the contrary, the Empress's party. The state of his health has revived the old suspicions; and there would seem to be some grounds for the fear that he was being persistently drugged with the intention of reducing him to imbecility. It is now openly stated that he is not likely to survive the course of treatment to which he is being subjected, and the belief is gaining ground that his death will be the signal for all the disaffected, who, in the centre provinces, and more especially in Hunan, form the majority of the people, to rise. This is stated, in more than one quarter, to have been the information tendered by the old Viceroy, LIU KWEN-I, who, it will be remembered, is himself a Hunanese; and coming from the mouth of a man whose life has been an evidence of his loyalty, it is of more than mere passing interest. This also throws light on much of the recent policy of Russia, to whom a war of race in China would open the gate to still further interference. Nothing would, in fact, be more consonant with the traditional policy of Russia, and nothing is more likely to bring about the opening sought than the recent intrigues of France. France has been notoriously and assiduously backing up the party of the Empress Dowager by representing the Emperor as the minion of England, who, she insidiously presses on the Yamen, is the backbone of the reform movement. England, she has lost no opportunity of cunning into willing ears, has been defeated in South Africa and is no longer a power in Europe. The only hope for the Empress is to engage the services of her two friends, France and Russia, with whose aid she need not

trouble herself about the resentment of England. Meanwhile, she is herself sending out troops to preserve this country from revolution. This is the story she would fain have the other Powers believe. The idea is ingenious, but unfortunately hardly in harmony with her actions in China. It is evident that there is in all this the element of danger, and as the British Government seems to be falling into its usual optimism, and to be putting off the inconvenient as long as possible, it is almost certain that we shall in the near future (but, we fear, still too late) be compelled to look affairs in the face. Would it not be a prudent step then to look after our position, and at once to increase our naval forces on the Pacific? Perhaps, when matters are placed in this light, the Government may be induced to do something.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND OFFICIAL DIFFERENCE.

(Daily Press, 16th March.)

Speaking the other day of the British Consular Service in China, a writer in this paper said: "A general reform is needed, and it will become the duty of those members of Parliament who have lately visited this part of the world, and of the increasing number who have interests here, to bring it prominently before the public at home." One of the members of Parliament has returned to England, and as we reported in our issue of a week ago, has been giving the public the benefit of his comments on the state of British interests in the Far East. *The Times* of the 8th ult. devoted a leading article to Mr. WALTON's observations and admitted that his account of what is going on in China was neither flattering nor encouraging. "In brief it may be said that he finds all interests but those of Great Britain being vigorously extended and consolidated." *The Times* mentions also how Mr. WALTON found that "valuable instrument," the Inland Waters Concession, so much waste paper, and that "British steamers on the Yang-tze and West River are not allowed to touch at any but treaty ports, the result being that in the total absence of wayside traffic they do not pay. There is some show of British gunboats, but only one has ever got more than fifty miles above I-chang, and our officers know nothing about the navigation of the upper river." Altogether *The Times'* writer receives a painful impression of a general slackness in British policy in the Far East, and of the sharply contrasted activity of other countries. This would have sounded far more satisfactory had we read it some twelve or eighteen months ago. As it is, we may perhaps trust that what we have known since within a few weeks of the granting of the Inland Waters Concession the home public is just beginning to understand through individual energy and enterprise. But this should not make any one forget that there is a Consular Service, part of whose work it is to do officially what Mr. WALTON has done privately. It would be disheartening, were we not so accustomed to the experience, to find that what we have been talking of for many months, if not for years, is treated as a rather surprising discovery at home. Should we take this as indicating that we have been talking to no effect for so long, and that the Government considers itself sufficiently well-informed by its Consular Service to be justified in putting aside, newly tied up in red tape, the complaints of the non-official? We have spoken before of the indifference of our Service in Peking and its apparent absorption

in the charitable task of propping a tottering dynasty which is using its remaining influence as much as possible adversely to British interests. But we are likely to have many more opportunities of like complaint if we do not find others willing to act as Mr. WALTON has done and make themselves heard. We have seen enough of "thwarted efforts" to know that the work to be done must be done at home, and not only at one end of a wire or by means of a four-cent stamp. The connection between our Chinese bases and home are now sufficiently close to allow such enterprises as that of Mr. WALTON, and there are already many influences working on the home authorities which, as they grow stronger, must have some effect. It is true that the task is about as tedious as that of wearing away a stone with a trickle of water. And though, as the stone of officialism is usually hardest outside, the process should grow easier as time goes on, yet time, when we are competing with energetic rivals, is not ours to employ as we will. Therefore, while the Inland Water Regulations remain "so much waste paper," there is a very definite object on which to keep our minds fixed in the struggle with official neglect and indifference.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On the 15th inst. a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR (Sir HENRY BLAKE, G.C.M.G.).

HIS EXCELLENCY Major-General GASCOIGNE, C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).

The Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. MEIGH GOODMAN (Attorney-General).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. A. W. BREWIN.

Hon. H. C. NICOLLE.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

A NEW MEMBER.

Mr. H. C. Nicolle took the oath of allegiance as a member of the Council.

PAPERS.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Coroner's returns for 1899 and the report of the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade for the year 1899.

THE NEW TERRITORIES REGULATION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL begged leave to move the following resolution, of which he had given notice.—"Whereas by section 6 of the New Territories Regulation Ordinance (No. 12 of 1899), it was enacted that the said Ordinance should remain in force for the period of one year from the date of its coming into operation, and for such further period of periods as might, from time to time, be determined by resolution of the Legislative Council: And whereas it is desirable that the said Ordinance should be continued in force for a further period of one year: It is hereby resolved by this Council that the New Territories Regulation Ordinance shall be continued in force for the further period of one year from the 18th day of April, 1900 (inclusive)."

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was carried.

THE CONDITION OF YEE WO STREET.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD announced that at the next meeting of the Council he would ask the following question:—"Has the

attention of the Hon. The Director of Public Works been directed to the dangerous condition of Yee Wo Street at the corner of Mr. Kennedy's Horse Repository at Causeway Bay and alongside the site of the proposed new Laundry to be erected there; and to the fact that the south east boundary stone of the latter lot projects some six inches above the level of the ground and has been placed well nigh in the middle of the road; and to the fact that on the south side a drain has been dug of considerable depth, without any protection; and will the honourable member inform the Council why a state of matters dangerous to equestrians, bicyclists, or to any one driving along that road, is permitted to continue?"

THE SHELL-COLLECTING CASES.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD announced that at the next meeting of the council he would move the following resolution:—"That the Hon. the Colonial Secretary lay upon the table a copy of the Crown Leases granted last autumn to the Lee Hing Company for the dredging and collecting of shells in and around Ping Chau Island in the New Territory, asked for in my question of 15th February last."

THE NEW TERRITORIES LAND COURT BILL.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL laid on the table his report as Chairman of the Standing Law Committee on the New Territories Land Court Bill. The report read as follows:—

The Chairman of the Standing Law Committee regrets that, owing to the indisposition of one of the members, he is unable to give the certificate which would enable this Bill to be dealt with in the same manner as a Bill reported on by a Committee of the whole Council, under Standing Order No. 41. The Committee recommended a number of amendments, and the Attorney-General accordingly drew a revised Bill incorporating in the main these amendments as well as some others which he thought desirable. All the members of the Committee, except one, thereupon met again and went through the Bill as amended, clause by clause, and while approving of the amended Bill generally, recommended a further amendment of clause 16 so as to enable applications for leave to appeal to be made to the Chief Justice, leaving the appeal, when such leave is granted, to be heard by the Full Court as provided in the Bill. The Committee, moreover, did not like the wording of the clause as to fixing rents in cases of disputed ownership and wished this clause to be omitted or amended. The Attorney-General has, accordingly, incorporated such further amendments in the Bill hereto annexed, omitting the clause in question. It will, however, be necessary for the Bill to be considered by the Committee of the whole Council, and the Attorney-General will propose in such Committee that the clauses so altered in the Bill as now amended be substituted for those in the original Bill.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—If the Standing Law Committee had had the advantage of having all the members present, then under the Standing Orders we should have reported upon this Bill, and unless the Council was desirous it would have been unnecessary for the Council to go through the Bill clause by clause in committee. As I have pointed out in my report, owing to the indisposition of one of the members, the Standing Law Committee were unable to report that the Bill had been considered in its present form clause by clause in the presence of all the members of the committee. Therefore it will be necessary that the whole Council in committee should consider the Bill. This is a very important Bill. It was brought forward for a first reading in the latter part of November. After this it was read a second time and referred to the Standing Law Committee. The Standing Law Committee had several sittings and they proposed a number of amendments. Some of those amendments necessitated the renumbering of the clauses of the Bill. Just at this stage of the proceedings Sir John Carrington returned to the colony, and I resumed my duties as Attorney-General. I thought it would facilitate matters if I set to work and went through the Bill myself and, having the advantage of the amendments proposed by the Standing Law Committee, endeavoured to redraft the Bill with the suggestions incorporated. I incorporated all these suggestions as far as possible and made some other

alterations which I thought would improve the Bill. I then called another meeting of the Law Committee, and they went through the Bill in its then form and approved of it generally. I beg to move that the Council go into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

The Acting COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I rise to say that this Bill is a totally new Bill in principal and in substance as compared with the Bill introduced, which passed a second reading in the autumn of last year. The old Bill stipulated that there should be three members composing the Land Court and that the Puisne Judge should be the presiding member of that court. Now it is proposed that only two members should compose the court, and there is no provision that either one or the other should have any legal knowledge. The scope of this Bill is much wider than that of the previous Bill, and I submit that instead of the Council going into committee on the Bill it should be read a first time and translated into Chinese so that the Chinese may have the opportunity of making any suggestions which might occur to them, as the Bill very directly affects them.

The Council then went into committee to consider the original Bill clause by clause.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I rise to move that the Council resume in order that members may have the opportunity of considering this new Bill. Honourable members have not had reasonable time to consider the important alterations now incorporated in the Bill. I have carefully read over the Convention between the Governments of China and Great Britain, and it appears to me that section 15 is entirely at variance and contrary to the provisions of section 6 of that convention, and I submit that reasonable time should be allowed members in which to consider this Bill very carefully.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER seconded, but on being put to the vote the motion was lost.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Then I rise to give notice that I shall lay my protest on the table against the ruling of this Council.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—It will not be necessary for me to repeat the remarks I made before the Council went into committee. I was not here the first or second time the Bill was read. In answer to what the honourable member opposite said as to the Bill now before the Council not being the Bill which was read a first time on the 23rd of November, the Bill which has been handed round to honourable members is the Bill containing for convenience amendments I propose to move, but honourable members have also before them the original Bill. One course, but not at all a convenient course, would be to take the old Bill clause by clause and say that instead of certain words such and such words should be substituted or added. I have no objection to that course except that it will lead to complication and difficulty. To abandon the Bill and bring it forward again for the first reading because the amendments suggested by the Law Committee are somewhat extensive is, I think, a course which the honourable member will see is not a proper course to pursue, and I think he will see on consideration that the fact that there have been a good many amendments is no reason why a Bill read a first and second time should be abandoned. But we are going through the different amendments, and if the honourable gentleman has any objection to them I will endeavour to the best of my ability to explain the reason why those amendments were considered necessary, and I have great hopes of entirely converting him to my views before the afternoon is over. As to the difference between the old Bill and the new Bill, the heading of the old Bill was somewhat defective, because it did not give the full scope of the Bill, and this the new Bill did, namely, "An Ordinance to facilitate the hearing, determination, and settlement of land claims in the New Territories, to establish a Land Court, and for other purposes." The first section of the new Bill, is practically the same as the first section of the old Bill, except that we say now "This Ordinance may be cited as the Land Court (New Territories) Ordinance, 1900, and it shall apply only to the New Territories, and to claims in relation to land therein." Coming to the second clause it was similar to the second clause of the Bill in its old form but

which had not interpretation clauses attached to it. These who had had experience in drafting Bills considered it very necessary to have an interpretation clause to facilitate the understanding of the Bill and pin down words and phrases to their proper meaning. The interpretation to the Bill was contained in the second clause and was as follows.—"The Court means the Land Court constituted under this Ordinance, and shall include any member thereof acting alone in matters where one member has jurisdiction conferred upon him by this Ordinance. Land includes buildings thereon and also land covered with water or within the flow of the sea. Claim in relation to land includes a claim to a right of common or other profit or benefit, or to any easement or other interest from, in, upon, or over or in respect of any land. New Territories means the additional Territories acquired by this Colony under the Convention dated the 9th day of June, 1898, between Her Majesty Queen Victoria and His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China for the enlargement of the limits of this Colony, including the City of Kowloon. The marginal notes explain the various clauses. The only one I need trouble to explain to you is No. 3. In case of small claims it would be simply a waste of time to employ two or three judges, consequently one member of the Land Court sitting alone will have jurisdiction to hear and finally determine the following:—(a.) Any undisputed claim, and (b.) Any disputed claim in which the value of the claim shall not, in the opinion of such member, exceed two hundred dollars, and (c.) Any disputed claim in which the parties consent to have such claim determined by one member. Provided also, that in case of a difference of opinion when both members are sitting together, the decision of the President shall prevail. As regards clause 15 I may just say a word. There is nothing contrary to the convention in it. They will find that the new clause 15 is practically the same as clause 12 in the old Bill. Clause 15 says:—"All land in the New Territories is hereby declared to be the property of the Crown, during the term specified in the Convention of the 9th day of June, 1898, hereinbefore referred to, and all persons in occupation of any such land, after such date as may be fixed by the Governor by notification in the Gazette, either generally or in respect to any specified place, village, or district, shall be deemed trespassers as against the Crown, unless such occupation is authorized by grant from the Crown or by other title allowed by the Court under this Ordinance, or by license from the Governor or from some Government officer having authority to grant such license, or unless a claim to be entitled to such occupation has been duly presented to the Court and has not been withdrawn or heard and disallowed." It must be clearly understood that I, as Attorney-General of this colony, maintain, in spite of any suggestions which may be made by any other people, that the whole of the land on the other side belongs without a doubt absolutely to Her Majesty, subject to the terms of the Convention. It belongs to Her Majesty during the term of 99 years mentioned in the Convention, and during that term she has sole jurisdiction in the New Territories. It is so stipulated in the Convention. Sole jurisdiction means that nobody else has any jurisdiction—the Emperor of China or anybody else. Consequently during that 99 years there can be no title held except from the Crown. If a person had a title from the Emperor of China at the time the territory was taken over, the Land Court would recognise that title and recommend that the title by Her Majesty should be given. The kind of title would be for your Excellency to decide.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—May I refer to provision "of the Convention?"

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I am most familiar with it. I have studied the matter most carefully.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—The honourable gentleman misunderstands the position. The Bill before the Council at the present time is the Bill that has been read a second time. The new Bill which the honourable member has had placed in his hands is simply the Bill with the proposed amendments, which for the convenience of members have been printed and circulated, so that they may study them instead of having them sprung

upon them. But it must be remembered that these amendments have been recommended by every member of the Law Committee except one, who, unfortunately, was unable to attend. Therefore I take it that every amendment will receive a great deal of respectful consideration from the Council, because if that one member had been present at the meeting of the Standing Law Committee, and had agreed to the amendments, this Council could have accepted the Bill *en bloc* as amended by the Law Committee and without consideration clause by clause.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD proposed that clause 3 of the Bill should stand over for further consideration until the Governor had made up his mind who the two members who should compose the court should be. He suggested that it was desirable that some provision should be made to guarantee that one of the members should have some legal knowledge.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—I think it is very desirable that one of the members should have some legal knowledge. I may say at once that it is the intention of the Government that one member should have some legal knowledge. At the same time I do not know that it is desirable to tie us down. It is quite possible that small claims might be looked by a person without what you may call any legal qualification but with a considerable amount of common-sense and considerable knowledge of land.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—That being the intention of the Government, would it not be well to have it inserted in the Ordinance that the senior member of the court shall be a duly qualified legal practitioner.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—It is also important we should have a man with a knowledge of Chinese.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR (to the Attorney-General)—Do you see any objection?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I think it could very safely be left to the Government. I would advise the Government to appoint a proper person. I think it is rather a reflection on the Government to suggest that they would appoint an improper person to the Land Court.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I can hardly follow the Attorney-General's logic and reasoning. If it is the intention of the Government to have a gentleman with legal knowledge at the head of this Land Court, why not put it in the Bill? We shall then know what we are doing.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—I would point out that theory is very fine, but an ounce of practice is worth a pound of theory. Supposing the legal member of the court was going on leave and we wanted to get a gentleman to do the business for a few months. Is there a legal man in the colony more capable of dealing with cases that would come before the Land Court than Mr. Bruce Shepherd if he were appointed? And yet if the honourable member's suggestion were adopted it would deprive the Government of the power to appoint someone to act, who was perfectly competent to do so, because he was not a legal practitioner.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—It must be borne in mind in addition that the court will sit on the other side, and it is not always possible to get, for instance, the Puisne Judge over there, as if he went over to the other side to the Land Court the business of the court on this side would be hanging fire.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD proposed that the further consideration of Clause 3 be postponed until the next meeting of the Council, but the proposal was not carried, himself, the Hon. Wei A Yuk and the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai being the only members who voted for it.

The rest of the clauses were then gone through and the Bill passed through the committee stage.

The Council then adjourned until next Thursday.

The Buddhist priests in Japan, have not abandoned their agitation against Governmental measures for placing all religions on an equal footing before the law. They have held another meeting, this time in the Zen temple in Kyoto. It was decided that funds should be raised for another campaign with regard to the next session of the Diet.

SUPREME COURT.

10th March.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND A SPECIAL JURY.

THE KWONG LUNG CHEONG FIRM V.
A. R. MARTY.

In this case the plaintiffs were the Kwong Lung Cheong firm, who are merchants trading and carrying on business at 87, Jervois Street, Victoria, and the defendant Mr. A. R. Marty, shipowner, trading and carrying on business at Peddar Street, Victoria. The claim was for \$2,550 the price of 15 tins of aniseed oil alleged to have been damaged through careless stowing on board the defendant's ship *Hailan*.

The jurors were—Messrs. A. Shelton Hooper (foreman), A. Haupt, James McKie, W. Hutton Potts, D. C. F. Crawford, James Orange, and John Barton.

On the application of Mr. Shelton Hooper, it was agreed that each juror should have \$10 a day for his services.

Mr. H. E. Pollock (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) for the defendant.

Mr. Pollock said the plaintiffs were the consignees of some tins of aniseed oil sent from Pakhoi to Hongkong on board the steamship *Hailan* (on or about October 11th, 1897) and they claimed damages in respect of the fact that 15 of these tins of aniseed oil out of 26 were, upon their arrival at Hongkong, found to be smashed in at the top, the oil having run out in consequence. The law upon the point was this: outside the exceptions contained in the bill of lading, there was a liability upon the shipowner as a common carrier to deliver the goods which were entrusted to his care in good order and condition. It was admitted by the defendant that these 15 tins were not delivered in good order and condition, and that, apart from the exceptions contained in the bill of lading, the defendant was liable to pay the plaintiffs the damage sustained by them, that was to say, the sum of \$2,550. Therefore *prima facie* the plaintiffs were entitled to the amount which they claimed, and unless the defendant could succeed in satisfying the jury that he had brought his case within the exceptions contained in the bill of lading, upon which he relied, they must give judgment for the plaintiffs. The defendant in his answer relied upon two specific exceptions contained in the bill of lading. The first exception on which he relied was insufficiency of packing—that the tins containing this oil were not strong enough to stand the ordinary pressure of an ordinary voyage out from Hoihow to Hongkong. The second defence was that these goods were damaged by perils of the sea. That was to say that the ship laboured so heavily in the bad weather experienced on the way out from Hoihow to Hongkong on the 14th and 15th October, that the tins were stove in through no fault on the ship-owner's part. He would point out to them that the law was that it was for the defendant, who relied upon these two exceptions, to prove such facts as would satisfy the jury that he was fairly and reasonably entitled to claim the benefit of such exceptions. But even if the defendant succeeded in this, there was the further question whether these tins of oil were or were not properly stowed on board this ship, because it was no use a ship-owner pleading insufficiency of packing or perils of the sea, if in reality such insufficiency of packing or perils of the sea would not have caused the damage, apart from bad stowage.

The evidence for the plaintiffs was then proceeded with, after which Mr. Slade addressed the jury for the defendant.

The jury gave judgment for the plaintiff for the amount claimed with interest and costs.

The Sixth Annual Dinner of the Hongkong Football Club will be held on Saturday, March 24th, at the Hongkong Hotel. The chair will be taken by Mr. H. E. Pollock. Members wishing to attend must notify the Hon. Sec. on or before March 21st.

March 13th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE.)ALLEGED UNLAWFUL DETENTION
OF A DOG.

In this case F. A. Pearson, of the Public Works Department, was the plaintiff and William Goldenburg, assistant at the Metropole Hotel, the defendant. The claim was for the return of a brown and white spaniel belonging to the plaintiff and unlawfully detained by the defendant, or the value of the same, \$100.

Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro (of the office of Messrs. Willinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiff. He said he had given the defendant notice to produce the dog, but he had not done so.

His Lordship—It is a great pity he has not. I would have liked to have seen it myself. What sort of a dog is it?

Mr. d'Almada e Castro—It is a King George spaniel. It is good spaniel. Perhaps your Lordship will ask the defendant why he has not produced it.

His Lordship—I will do that when we get him in the box.

Mr. d'Almada e Castro—I will put the plaintiff in the box to prove that the dog was his.

His Lordship—How are you going to prove that when you have not got the dog here?

Mr. d'Almada e Castro—I have given notice to produce.

His Lordship called the defendant forward. The defendant said he had got the dog but if he took the dog out he would lose it, as it would follow a soldier.

His Lordship—If you do not produce the dog at once there will be judgment against you. I am going to have no more nonsense.

The case was adjourned until Thursday, the defendant to pay the costs for the day.

An arrangement was subsequently come to by the parties, the defendant returning the dog and paying the costs.

March 14th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND HIS HONOR A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

CHAN KIT SAN AND SZ KUK SAN, APPELLANTS, V. HO FUNG HANG, ADMINISTRATOR, ETC., RESPONDENT.

Their Lordships gave judgment in this case. The Chief Justice said—This is an appeal by the Defendants in the Court below from a judgment of Acting Chief Justice Goodman, given on the 21st December, 1899, in favour of the Plaintiff in the Court below. This judgment was given on the hearing of an issue in law, in the nature of a demurrer, which was in the following terms:—“Assuming that all the facts stated in the Petition are true, is or is not the Plaintiff's claim herein barred by the Statutes of Limitations?”

The facts set out in the Petition may be shortly stated. The Appellants are partners in the Yan Wo and Yi Li opium firms of Hongkong and Macao. Ho I Shek, of whose estate the Respondent is administrator, died intestate on the 19th June, 1880. No administration to his estate was taken out until the month of November, 1886—more than six years after his death—when probate of an alleged will was granted to Ho Chik Fuk, the person named as executor in the will. Ho Chik Fuk did not intermeddle in any way with the shares of Ho I Shek in the Yan Wo and Yi Li firms. On the 17th November, 1896, the Court revoked the grant of probate on the ground that the will was a forgery, and on the 21st June, 1897, letters of administration of the estate were granted to the Respondent. At the time of his death Ho I Shek was the owner of two shares in the Yan Wo firm and of one share in the Yi Li firm, and upon his death his shares remained in the firms, and the surviving partners continued to carry on the

businesses without any final settlement being come to between the firms and his estate. The Respondent recently applied to the Appellants for accounts showing the amounts due to the estate in respect of Ho I Shek's shares in the firms, but the Appellants refused to render any such accounts. The Petition concludes with the prayer that accounts may be taken of the partnership dealings affecting the shares of Ho I Shek; that it may be ascertained of what the shares and the unpaid profits on them consist; and that payment may be made to the Respondent as administrator of Ho I Shek of what may be found to be due on the taking of the accounts.

It will be observed that these facts are stated as if they were established, but of course they are admitted by the Appellants only for the purposes of the present argument on the point of law. It is admitted by both parties that the grant of probate of the forged will may be laid out of consideration, as having no bearing on the question now to be decided.

In these circumstances the learned Acting Chief Justice held that the case was concluded by the authority of *Murray v. The East India Company*, 2 B. & Ald. 204, and he gave judgment for the Respondent. This case, which was decided in 1821, established the proposition that if a person to whom a cause of action would have accrued if he were living dies intestate or without leaving an executor before the cause of action accrues, the statutes of limitations do not begin to run until administration has been taken out. The case was not the first of its kind. In the judgment of the Court *Stanford's Case*, cited in *Cro Jac. 61*, and *Cary v. Stephenson*, 2 Salk. 421, were quoted, and it was said that the latter case had decided precisely the same point. In *Murray v. The East India Company* the action was brought by an administrator, with a will annexed, of goods left unadministered by a former administrator, upon several bills of exchange drawn in favour of the testator, but which were accepted by the defendants and became payable after his death. No executor was appointed by the will, and the first grant of administration was made after the bills had become payable. At the institution of the action more than six years had elapsed since the bills became payable, but the first grant of administration had been made within six years before the bringing of the action. On these facts it was contended on behalf of the defendants that the statute of limitations began to run from the time when the bills became payable, and that the right of action was therefore barred by the statute. But Chief Justice Abbott, in delivering the judgment of the Court, said, at p. 214:—“We are of opinion that the time of limitation in the present case did not begin to run until the grant of the administration. The words of the statute 21 James 1 c. 16 s. 3 are that actions upon the case, etc., shall be brought within six years next after the cause of such actions, and not after. Now, independently of authority, we think that it cannot be said that a cause of action exists, unless there be also a person in existence capable of suing.” And judgment was given for the plaintiff.

This case is recognized as an authority for the rule which it lays down by Lord Justice Smith in *Murus Bey v. Gadban* 71 L. T. (N. S.) at p. 54, and in such treatises as *Williams' Law of Executors and Administrators*, pp. 552 and 1,785, and *Darby and Bosanquet's Statutes of Limitations*, p. 47. See also *Pratt v. Swaine*, 8 B. & C. 285.

But, at the hearing of this appeal, Mr. Francis, on behalf of the Appellants, put forward several reasons why the case of *Murray v. The East India Company* should not be taken to govern the decision in the present case. In the first place it was urged that the deceased had the right to demand an account from his partners, and that therefore the statute must be deemed to have commenced to run during his lifetime. Section 3 of the Partnership Ordinance, 1897, —“Partners are bound to render true accounts and full information of all things affecting the partnership to any partner or his legal representatives”—was quoted as expressing the pre-existing law on this subject. But this point seems to be answered by the following passage from *Lindley's Law of Partnership*, p. 512, under the heading of “defences to an action of account between partners and persons claiming under them”:—“So long, indeed, as a partnership is

subsisting, and each partner is exercising his rights and enjoying his own property, the statute of limitations has, it is conceded, no application at all; but as soon as a partnership is dissolved or there is any exclusion of one partner by the others, the case is very different, and the statute begins to run." Here there is nothing before the Court to show that the deceased was not exercising his rights and enjoying his own property in the partnerships until his death, or to show that there was any dissolution of the partnerships or exclusion of him by the other partners before his death. See on this point the observations of Lord Chancellor Hatherley in *Burdick v. Garrick*, 5 Ch. App., at p. 241, and of Lord Colonsay in *Knox v. Gye*, 5 Eng. & Ir. App., at p. 677. I do not think, therefore, that the statute began to run during the lifetime of the deceased.

Then it was said that by the operation of section 18 of the Probates Ordinance, 1897, by which it is enacted that "From and after the decease of any person dying intestate and until administration is granted in respect of his estate, the estate of such deceased person shall be vested in the Official Administrator," there was in existence a person, namely, the Official Administrator, who could, immediately on the death of the deceased, have sued for an account of his partnership dealings with the Appellants, and therefore the statute began to run from his death. It is to be observed, however, that this enactment was not in operation at the time of the death of the deceased, and the corresponding enactment of Ordinance No. 8 of 1860, namely, section 39, vested the personal estate and effects of intestates not in the Official Administrator but in the Registrar of the Supreme Court. No right to apply for and obtain letters of administration was conferred upon the Registrar, and it was clearly contemplated by the Ordinance that such right should devolve either upon the Official Administrator or upon a private person. On inquiry I learn that the practice under section 39 of the Ordinance of 1860 was for the Registrar to take possession of the deceased intestate's property, and to hold it until the Official Administrator or some private person had taken out letters of administration. I am therefore of opinion that, upon the death of the deceased taking place, there was no person in existence in whom the right to institute a suit for a partnership account on behalf of his estate was vested, and consequently that the statute did not begin to run on his death.

In the last place it was said that the case of *Monckton v. Payne*, [1899] 2 Q.B. 603, was a clear authority in favour of the Appellants; that it was not consistent with *Murray v. The East India Company*; and that the Court must choose between the two cases. *Monckton v. Payne* was tried by Lord Justice Smith, sitting as a Judge of the Queen's Bench Division without a jury. The facts in it were as follows. The lord of a manor was entitled to an arbitrary fine on the admittance of a tenant to copyhold. The fine was to be fixed by the lord himself, but was not to exceed two years' annual value of the copyhold. On the 5th April, 1892, the defendant was admitted a copyhold tenant of the manor. In February, 1898, the lord assessed the fine at the sum of £24, which was admitted to be a reasonable amount; and on the 2nd September, 1898, a demand for this amount was made on the defendant. The fine not having been paid, an action was brought to recover it, the writ being issued on the 13th April, 1899. The Statute of Limitations—3 and 4 Will 4, c. 42, s. 3 (1)—was relied on as a defence. On these facts the learned Judge said that the plaintiff's contention amounted to this, "that the plaintiff had power to postpone the operation of the statute as long as he chose, and that the period of limitation was not to begin to run in the tenant's favour until the lord had thought fit to make the assessment and demand, which he might postpone at his will for any length of time." But Lord Justice Smith refused to adopt this view, and held that in such a case as that the cause of action was the admittance, and the statute at once began to operate. Accordingly he gave judgment for the defendant.

This case of *Monckton v. Payne* is not really, in my opinion, in conflict with *Murray v. The East India Company*. It does not touch the

general point decided in the latter case that, in the case of a right of action in respect of an intestate's estate, the operation of the statutes of limitations is postponed until there is in existence a representative of the estate, capable of asserting the right. It merely affirmed that, in the particular circumstances of the case, the lord of the manor, a person in existence and capable of asserting this right, could not by his own act be allowed to defeat the operation of the statutes on that right.

Two other observations to the same effect on this point may be made. One is that in *Monckton v. Payne* the case of *Murray v. The East India Company* was not referred to either in the arguments or in the judgment. The other is that it is not easy to see how a considered judgment of the Court of King's Bench can be regarded as having been impliedly overruled or affected by the decision of a Judge, however distinguished, sitting alone for the trial of causes.

I am therefore of opinion that the case of *Monckton v. Payne* is not an authority for the decision of the present case.

During the argument and in the course of my reflection on the case, I have been a good deal impressed with the inconvenience attending upon the making of a claim, as in the present instance, after the lapse of so long of time as more than 18 years. But I can find no authority for holding that the duty of taking out letters of administration at an earlier time was cast upon the Respondent or any one else, and the result of some of the cases to which reference has been made seems to be that a right which arises upon or after the death of a person intestate may be kept alive for an indefinite period by the fact that no one takes out letters of administration: see *Darby and Bosanquet's Statutes of Limitations*, p. 339. In *Fairclain v. Little*, cited in *Murray v. The East India Company* *ubi supra*, at p. 214 the right of action arose in 1779, and letters of administration were not taken out until 1816.

For these reasons I come to the conclusion that the learned Judge was right in holding that the case of *Murray v. The East India Company* is decisive of the present case, and that the judgment should be affirmed and this appeal dismissed, with costs.

The Puisne Judge concurred.

Mr. J. J. Francis (instructed by Mr. C. Ewens) appeared for the Appellants and Mr. H. E. Pollock (instructed by Messrs. Dennis and Bowley) for the Respondent.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at 3 p.m. on Monday, the 12th March, 1900. Present: Messrs. R. M. Gray (chairman) A. McConachie (vice-chairman) A. Haupt, H. A. Ritchie, N. A. Siebs, Herbert Smith, Hon. T. H. Whitehead and F. Henderson (acting secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting (held on the 5th February) were read and confirmed.

PIRACY IN CANTON WATERS.

The CHAIRMAN said—Piracy in Canton Waters has continued to affect seriously both the import and export trade. Our Government, beyond maintaining three small gunboats on and about the West River, have so far apparently not seen their way to take more active measures in the matter, and the Chinese Authorities have hitherto proved quite unable to cope with the situation. I understand however that the new Viceroy of the two Kwangs is expected to take immediate steps to remedy this evil, and it is to be hoped that before we meet again some decided improvement may have taken place.

The question was discussed at some length with a unanimous opinion that active measures of some description were imperative, but it was decided that the Chamber should not move again in the matter until time was given to see the effect of the expected action of the Viceroy.

TARIFF REVISION IN CHINA.

Read letter from Mr. W. F. Wenyon, dated 14th February, 1900, referring to the rapid progress now being made with the tariff revision in China and suggesting that the Hongkong

Chamber of Commerce approach Her Imperial Majesty's Government through the Associated Chambers of Commerce in England with a view to securing that the proposed new tariff for China should be submitted before acceptance to the Chambers of Commerce at Hongkong and Shanghai.

Read letter to Sir Claude Macdonald, dated 22nd February, on this subject, enquiring whether the rumour was true that the consideration of a new tariff was being pushed on rapidly, and expressing a hope that those most interested in the revision would have the opportunity of giving their opinion before any arrangement is come to with the Peking Government. A copy of this letter has been forwarded to the Colonial Secretary for the information of H.E. the Governor.

FOURTH CONGRESS OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE EMPIRE.

Read letter, dated 16th February, to the Secretary of the London Chamber of Commerce, submitting the three resolutions agreed upon, and stating that in the event of their acceptance by the organising committee of the congress it had been arranged that Sir Thomas Jackson will propose the first dealing with the navigation by foreign steamers of the inland waters of China, and the Hon. T. H. Whitehead will propose the second and third on the subjects of the reduction of Cable Rates and fresh Marine Surveys in Eastern Seas.

THE PREVALENCE OF COUNTERFEIT COIN.

THE POLICE MAKE A HAUL.

Bad money is very prevalent in the Colony, and it is satisfactory to learn that the police are fully alive to this fact and leave no stone unturned to find out who are distributing it.

At the Magistracy on the 9th inst. Pang Man Sang was charged with being in possession of counterfeit coin. Mr. Mounsey (Messrs. Mounsey and Brutton) defended.

Chief detective Inspector Hanson said that at 5 p.m. on the 2nd instant, by virtue of the warrant produced, he entered the first floor of house No. 26, in Lee Yuen Street East. He there found the box produced standing against the wall. The back of the box was loose. In the box he found the bag produced, containing \$27.40 in 20-cent pieces, Kwangtung coin. In a drawer in the box he found eight ten-cent pieces, Queen's coin, and in a trunk under the bed he found the purse produced, containing eight 10-cent pieces, Queen's coin, and 25-ton cent and five 20-cent pieces, Kwangtung coin. All the coins were bad. While he was searching he heard a man bolt downstairs. He told the Chinese detective who was with him to follow and the man was brought back. The man said the box and the trunk were his. On his person he found two 10-cent pieces—one good and the other bad. The defendant said he had brought the coins from Fatsan but not to pass. He took the defendant to the Police Station, where he was charged. He was cautioned and made a statement.

Wong Kwai Yan, sergeant interpreter at the Central Police Station, said that when brought into the charge room the defendant, after having been duly cautioned, made the statement produced.

The Chinese detective who arrested the defendant also gave evidence.

The Shroff at the Central Police Station said that he had examined the coins carefully, and was quite sure they were all bad but one.

In reply to Mr. Mounsey, witness said the test he applied to the coins was the workmanship and the colour and the sound. This was the first time he had seen these coins. The coins he had looked at were made of copper washed with silver, and the workmanship was more rough than that of genuine coins.

The defendant was committed for trial. Bail \$5000 was allowed.

The managers of the Manila Country Club introduced an innovation at their race meet last month, in the shape of two calesin races, which aroused great interest. "There are a number of fine harness ponies in Manila," says a local paper, "and perhaps we shall yet see the American bicycle-wheeled sulky and up-to-date harness meets here."

THE MURDER OF AN INDIAN SOLDIER.

At the Magistracy on the 13th inst. Gheba Khan, a private in the Hongkong Regiment, was charged on remand with the wilful murder of Lance-Sergeant Ghulam Hassam, of the same Regiment. Mr. Bowley appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Wilkinson for the defence.

Allah Dittah Khan, a private in the Hongkong Regiment, said he belonged to D Company, No. 4 section. Each company had a block to itself in the Barracks, and each block contained four rooms, one for each section. No. 4 section had a room to itself, and in that room the non-commissioned officers and men of the section slept. In the middle of the day on the 8th March he was in the room of No. 4 section. He was sitting on his bed. This was at about one o'clock. The deceased, the prisoner, and several other men were in the room at the time. The deceased was lying down on his bed asleep. The prisoner and two others were sitting on a bed. Four of the men were tending the prisoner, "Now is your time; he's not got so many of his men here." They told the prisoner that the deceased was asleep and that if the deceased struck him back they would come and rescue him. The prisoner then went to the fireplace and picked up a broom. The prisoner then walked towards the bed of the deceased and stood looking at him for some time to see if he was asleep. Finding he was asleep the prisoner struck him thrice with the broom on the right side of the head. He then threw the broom down and ran away. The broom used was like the one produced. When struck with the broom deceased made no sound; he did not even move his arm. Witness was standing about ten paces away. There were 25 beds in the room. When the prisoner was sitting on the bed with the other four men he had nothing in his hand. At about five minutes to two the Subadar came in and the deceased was sent to the hospital and the prisoner to the guard room.

Subahdar Kharam Khan said he belonged to No. 4 Company of the Hongkong Regiment. At about ten minutes to two in the afternoon of the 8th instant, someone came to him and made a report. In consequence he dressed and went out. He saw the prisoner in custody. Witness went to the room occupied by the No. 4 section and found the deceased lying on his bed. Blood was flowing from his nose and mouth. The deceased was lying on his right side. He felt his pulse and looked at him, but saw no marks. The skin of the head was not broken. He did not notice any bruise on the head. He sent the deceased to the hospital, witness accompanying him. Witness saw three brooms in the room of the No. 4 section. They were all together near the fireplace. The brooms produced were the same. He took them out of the room and they were put into the store.

Assistant-Surgeon Pullen said that on the afternoon of the 8th March, about half-past two, he saw the deceased in the hospital in a semi-unconscious state. He tried to rouse him but without success. He moved his hands and resisted their feeling his pulse or interfering with his eyes. Blood was issuing from the nose and mouth, and there was a large swelling over the eyes. The skin was not broken. The deceased died at 5-30 the same afternoon. The cause of death was coma. He attended the post mortem the next day with Major Brown. On removing the scalp they found a great quantity of blood in the tissues. On examining the skull internally they found a fracture extending from one temple to the other. It went right across the top of the skull. At the top of the skull the fracture was splintered. On removing the skull the brain was found to be impregnated with small fragments of bone. The result was that the brain was lacerated and there was a diffusion of blood. The brain matter was congested. The bleeding from the nose was caused by a fracture extending to the roof of the nose. The rest of the body was healthy. He examined the whole of the body and found no marks of violence or any discolouration elsewhere. The injuries could have been caused by a blow from a blunt, heavy instrument—by such an instrument as

the broom produced. There were signs of the deceased having received one blow on the top of the head and the other on the right temple. Judging from the injuries he received, the deceased might have been lying down on his left side. From the time the deceased was admitted into hospital to his death he was not conscious.

Jewan Khan and Allah Deen, of the Hongkong Regiment, also gave evidence, and the further hearing was adjourned.

D. STRUCTION OF HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK'S NEW PREMISES AT PEKING.

A telegram was received on the 14th inst. at the Head Office of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation that the premises of the Peking agency had been completely destroyed by fire. It is not stated how the conflagration occurred, but it is satisfactory to learn that all the books have been saved. The Bank's new premises in Legation Street, Peking, were opened for business in June last. The premises were located in one of the most imposing buildings in Peking.

INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF FUND.

The Hon. Treasurer (Sir Thomas Jackson) begs to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following contributions to the above Fund:—

Already Acknowledged	\$16655.
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.	500
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	500
Bradley & Co.	500
Herbert Dent	250
A. Britisher	100
D. Warren Smith	100
C. J. Gaupp & Co.	100
D. J.	100
F. Henderson	100
Brandao & Co.	100
D. S. Lewis	25
C. S. Sharp	25
A. N. Huks	25
R. M. Mehta	10
Hon. R. D. Ormsby	10
Ho Tung	1,000
Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Limited	500
Reuter, Brockleman & Co.	250
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.	250
W. R. Loxley & Co.	200
Jebson & Co.	200
Admiral Sir E. H. Seymour, K.C.B.	110
Ho Fook	100
J. R. Michael	100
Dennys & Bowley	100
R. S. "Feihoo"	10
C. V. Brenau	50
D. E. Brown	50
Rev. R. F. Cobbold	50
Sir John Carrington, C.M.G.	50
J. Orange	50
Dr. W. Hartigan	50
E. S. Wheeler	50
B. Layton	50
W. A. Fitton	30
H. W. Brazier	25
F. O. Seaton	25
R. A. Gubbay	25
M. H. Michael	25
A. H. H.	25
M. M. K.	25
R. S. M.	25
M. F. "The Siam Observer"	25
F. B. "Country life in Siam"	25
Dr. B. "to have been enjoyed"	20
R. C. "Non district. Dur"	20
A. J. "Eight cases of"	10
W. H. "Ward of the fund for"	10
J. A. B. "Schools bolted"	10
P. Dow "ary there"	10
Ernst Arndt "some b"	10
Thos. Jacob, R.S. 10 a. there	6.80
"Lohengrin"	5
C. Wilcockson "fr"	5
R. D. Vania "t a."	5
Pakhoi contributions:—	
Right Rev. Bishop Bardon	50
Perry & Co.	20
N. Perkins	20

E. S. Beauchamp	\$ 10
Arte vel Marte	10
E. G. Horder	10
Viribus Unitis	5
S. B. Thompson	5
Liang Tien Tsao	3
F. Belin	2
M. Johnson	1
A. Schomburg & Co.	1
Chinese	70
C. Smith Ryland, £25 at 1/11½	255.32
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited	250
The "Star" Ferry Co., Limited	100
E. W. Rutter	50
Hon. W. M. Goodman	30
H. N. Cooper	25
J. S. Ezekiel	25
W. Taylor	20
T. I. Rose	20
Rev. F. T. Johnston	10
D. Ollia	10

\$23,669.82

A first instalment of Rs. 30,000 has been remitted to the Viceroy of India to-day for account of the Famine Fund.

TUNG WA HOSPITAL.

The Directors of the Tung Wa Hospital beg to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the Fund for the extension of the Hospital, &c.

Already subscribed	\$89,107.28
Chinese Community (Foochow)	1,000
A Friend	250
Mr. Yeung Tai loi	100
Compradore Staff, steamer Lung Sang	25.30
Mr. Chan Chiu-nam	5
Ye Tak	5
Sam Kee	3
Total	\$90,495.56

QUEEN'S COLLEGE REPORT.

The annual report of the Head Master of Queen's College is published in the *Gazette*. We make the following extracts:—

The total number on Roll was 1,344, the same figure as in 1898. The attendance, however, shows a very marked improvement, 204,021 for 230 instead of 176,867 for 235 days, after reducing attendances of 1898 *pro rata* to the same number of days 230, we find an increase in 1899 of 30,917 attendances. The highest monthly attendances 1,072, 1,070 and 1,055 actually exceed the total annual rolls of the years 1892-1896. The largest number of boys present on one day was 1,031; more than were present in 1898 throughout the whole year.

Hence it would appear that we are justified in considering the increased demand for admission as of a permanent nature. This presents a remarkable contrast to the condition of affairs that existed in the early sixties, when the offer of free education, including the loan of books, was required to induce Chinese boys to come to the Central School to learn English. The natural conclusion is that the time has come when it is no longer necessary for the Government to continue to provide books, &c., for the pupils. I accordingly recommended that boys at Queen's College should, as at other schools, purchase their own school materials; which recommendation on the advice of the Governing Body was approved by His Excellency the Governor (C.S.O. 1094/99). The new rule which came into force from the 1st January, 1900, will cause an additional annual expense to each boy varying from 70 cents to 6 dollars; while, on the other hand, the Government will be relieved of an annual outlay of \$1,650.

The Revenue from fees was \$27,245, which is more than double the collection in 1897, and an increase of \$5,652 on the amount in 1898.

The increase of the Gross Expenditure by 3,600 is due chiefly to the item Adjustment of Exchange in England.

The following comparative Table will illustrate the varying fortunes of the College during the last five years:—

Year.	Number of Scholars.	Number of School Days.	Average Daily Attendance.	School Fees.	Actual Net Expenditure.	Average Expense of each Scholar per Average Daily Attendance.
1895,	1,024	233	547	\$12,667	\$28,431.50	\$43.61
1896,	988	235	527	9,948	27,541.15	52.86
1897,	1,212	230	825	13,460	25,633.52	31.06
1898,	1,344	235	753	21,593	16,303.91	21.65
1899,	1,344	230	887	27,245	14,262.89	16.08

From absence and resignation the staff has been shorthanded this year, and frequent changes have ensued. Four out of ten English masters have been absent throughout the year. Mr. A. W. Grant, B.A., of Pembroke College, Cambridge, arrived at the end of August. A Scheme for articling three additional pupil teachers is under consideration.

The results of the Oxford Local Examinations are as follows:—Of seven Senior candidate, six of whom were Chinese, four, or 57 per cent. passed; of the Juniors all non-Chinese, only one out of seven or 14 per cent. passed. We sent in no preliminary candidate. C. B. Hayward, who headed in 1893 our Junior list and was distinguished in English, occupied the same position and obtained the same distinction as a Senior last July.

I am happy to report that four Free Scholars from the Government District Schools were elected last March and have worked most satisfactorily in the Fourth Class to which they were admitted.

119 boys from this College obtained various situations in the Colony and elsewhere. Of these 21 were employed by her Majesty's Government, and 35 by local professional and mercantile firms.

"Lately it is reported," says *The Kobe Chronicle*, "that an exodus of artisans and trained factory hands from Odessa (to the Far East) has commenced, and that every vessel of the fleet lately arriving has been bringing scores, if not hundreds, of these to Port Arthur. This latter fact is a suggestive one. It is just within the bounds of possibility that Russia means to have her new vessels for the Far East built ultimately in the Far East. With the development of the mineral wealth of Manchuria and of Northern China, there will be no lack of materials for this purpose, while labour will be even cheaper and perhaps more efficient than it is in Russia. . . . Some years ago, if we mistake not, Sir Thomas Sutherland, the Chairman of the P. & O. Company, had visions of the not very far distant likelihood of having the big vessels of his fleet built on the Yangtze by Chinese labour. The chances are that before Chinese labour does anything for P. & O. liners it will have served a pretty good apprenticeship on the construction of Russian battle-ships and cruisers."

THE HONGKONG FIRE BRIGADE.

The Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade for the year 1899 has been published. We make the following extracts:—
There were 31 fires and 97 incipient fires during the year. Details regarding each are attached. The Brigade turned out 38 times during the year.

The estimated damage caused by the fires was \$829 814 and and by the incipient fires \$354.

The year will be remembered by the disastrous fire at the Chap Yik Godown in Hing Lung Lane by which property to the value of some \$500,000 was destroyed. The fire originated among some matting on the upper floor of a compartment of the godown on the ground floor of which were stored in close proximity large quantities of sulphur and saltpetre. The Brigade, which had had timely notice of the fire, was engaged in extinguishing it, when a violent explosion took place which blew a portion of the roof off that particular compartment of the godown and shattered a portion of its walls. One of the firemen was seriously burnt about the face and hands, and injured about the head by falling bricks, and narrowly escaped with his life. A few minutes afterwards another terrific explosion occurred. The remainder of the roof was lifted off that half of the godown which is on the east side of Hing Lung Lane, and an immense mass of burning matter was blown into the air to a height of from 50 to 60 feet. The roof of an adjoining building on the east side was seriously damaged, and a building in Queen's Road West at a distance of 100 yards was ignited by burning debris and completely destroyed.

There was a very large quantity of Chinese crackers stored in the Cháp Yik Godown, but not in the immediate proximity of the seat of the original fire.

The danger arising out of the uncontrolled storage of fire crackers is one that had not escaped attention, and long before this fire occurred proposals were under consideration for guarding against it, and a Bill is about to be introduced into the Legislature dealing with the subject.

There are no regulations for the storage of sulphur or saltpetre, and this is a matter which is now receiving attention. I confess it had escaped me before.

The water in the mains was not turned off at any time during the year.

The mobility of the Brigade at the Central Fire Station has been materially increased by the acquisition from Messrs. Merryweather and Sons of a quatricycle despatch box by means of which four firemen can transport themselves and 600 feet of hose and the necessary appliances to the scene of a fire in a very short time. There has not yet been sufficient opportunity to thoroughly test the usefulness of this machine, but it has already proved of service and ought to be a valuable aid to the Brigade.

The conduct of the Brigade during the year has been good.

**THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA,
LIMITED.**

The ninth ordinary annual general meeting of shareholders of The National Bank of China, Limited, was held on the 10th inst. at noon at the office of the Bank. Mr. Chan Kit Shan presided. The gentlemen present were:

were:—Messrs J. **Tung Shang**
 (directors); G. **Chief man-**
 ager. **Fung Waver** gives a delightful **J. H.**
Cox, W. M. Haslam. "People seeman, **E. W.**
Torrey, Chan Hoying themselves **imok.** **Chai**
Wung Ki, Luk bring **January** **thung Ping**
Cho, Fung Hoi, murder there and **lag Sam,**
Fung Ki Cheuk for the established others.

Mr **Fung Wa** with all the **Chairman's**
 speech as follows: were only, I have now the
 pleasure to submit **hope** for a report and balance
 sheet to 31st Dec **writ** 1899 (which with your
 permission we **Siamas** as read), and, although
 the figures speak for themselves, I would make
 a few remarks for your guidance. The gross
 profits are the largest we have yet shown, and as
 we indicate last year, the charges account shows
 a decided reduction, and we hope to show a fur-
 ther reduction in the ensuing year. The capital
 reserve fund will now finally stand at \$191,973.33

**GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN
GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.**

The first general meeting in connection with the above company was held at the office of the general agents (Messrs. Lütgens, Einsteinnann and Co.), No. 9, Praya Central, on the 14th inst., at noon. The chair was occupied by Mr. A. Denison and there were also present: Messrs. R. Abesser (director), L. Lambotte (secretary), E. Georg, J. M. Michael, J. dos Remedios, M. Jaffer, and J. Atzenroth:

THE CHAIRMAN—This is only the statutory meeting called in accordance with the Ordinance. We have no business to transact, but if any of you would like to ask any questions I should be glad to answer them.

Mr. GEORG—Have you any information from the mines?

The CHAIRMAN—There is a telegram here which says prospects are more hopeful. That is the main thing.

Mr. GEORG—When was that telegram received?

The CHAIRMEN—On the second of March. There is no letter confirming that yet. He added, after reading an extract from the last letter received from Mr. Best (the manager of the mines), that he believed all the capital was subscribed except about 4 per cent. Most of that was represented by shareholders who were not in the colony—who had gone either to England or to other places.

Mr. MICHAEL said he had a friend who was out of the colony. Would shares be left open to him and other shareholders who were away?

The CHAIRMAN—Oh yes, in cases where people are known, I think we have got money enough to last until the end of September before making any other call, and very likely longer. That is all the business, gentlemen.

CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the seventeenth ordinary general meeting to be held at the office of the General Managers on Saturday, 24th March, 1900, at 12 o'clock noon.

Annexed we beg to submit to shareholders the usual annual statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1899.

The net profit, including the balance from last year, amounts to \$93,013.28 which it is proposed to deal with as follows, viz:—

To place to reserve fund ... \$35,000.00
To pay a dividend of 20 per cent. ... 60,000.00
To carry forward to next year's account ... 1,013.28

The new steamer, *Diamante*, arrived here on the 5th April, 1899, and has since run regularly on the line, proving herself well adapted in every way to our requirements.

The result of the twelve months' working will doubtless be found very satisfactory by shareholders especially when it is considered how severely the export trade from the Philippines suffered during the year from the closing of the ports in consequence of the rebellion there.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, Messrs. Gillies, Siebs, Lewis and Shewan all retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

SHEWAN TOMES & Co.
General Managers.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1899.	
Donation to "Sailors' and Soldiers' Families' Fund"	\$ 600.00
Loss on investment in shares	2,026.60
Loss on stores	208.30
Consulting Committee	2,000.00
Auditors' fees	400.00
Charges account	1,085.53
Amount written off for depreciation, 1899	25,911.58
Balance	96,013.23
	\$128,568.14

Balance brought forward from 1898	\$ 497.37
Profit on working of steamers "Emeralda," "Diamante," "Talis" and "Nanyang"	126,473.53
Interest	1,080.11
Exchange	583.27
Amount transferred from bad and doubtful debts	23.97
	\$128,568.14

BALANCE SHEET.	
LIABILITIES.	
Capital, 6,000 shares at \$50 paid up	\$300,000.00
Reserve fund	65,000.00
Underwriting account	9,923.26
Sundry creditors	55,531.20
Due to General Managers	14,203.68
Balance of profit and loss account	96,013.28
	\$540,721.40

ASSETS.	
Value of Company's steamers "Emeralda" and "Diamante"	\$335,911.58
Less depreciation written off	25,911.58
	\$310,000.00
Value of buoys and moorings at Hongkong	100.00
Value of coals on hand	1,530.00
Value of stores on hand	658.75
Premium value of unexpired policies	10,859.61
Outstanding freight, 1899	51,979.88
Sundry debtors	57,414.06
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	106,388.60
Cash in hand	1,892.52
	\$540,721.40

The following law has been promulgated by the Governor-General of Formosa with regard to the control of the land in the native districts of the island:—"No person other than the aborigines of Formosa, no matter under what name, shall be allowed to occupy and use any part of the ground in the native district, nor make such ground the subject of rights. This Law shall not apply to cases where provisions are otherwise made, or to cases where the approval of the Governor-General has been obtained. The violation of the preceding clauses shall be followed by a fine of from 5 yen to 100 yen, or imprisonment for a term of between 11 days and 6 months."

THE QUEEN MINES, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to shareholders at the first ordinary meeting to be held at the Company's Offices, 38 and 40, Queen's Road, Central, on Thursday, the 22nd day of March, 1900, at noon.

To the shareholders of Queen Mines, Limited, Gentlemen.—We beg to lay before you the report and statement of accounts for the year ending the 30th November last:—

The sum of \$18,962.55 has been expended on the Mine, which amount stands at debit of development account as an asset, \$7,036.27 on one third share of a new and up to date air compressing plant and rock drills; the remaining two-thirds having been paid by Oliver's Freehold Mines, Limited, \$1,303.88 in preliminary and legal expenses in Hongkong and \$8,598.01 on salaries, management and general expenses in Australia, or \$35,900.71 out of a total of \$38,713.61.

During the year all work done has been at the bottom or 405 feet level, where a total distance of 204 feet has been driven, 111 feet north, and 93 feet south. Two winzes have been sunk and at the end of the year one was down to a depth of 80 feet and the other to a depth of twelve feet, but the appearances not being at all encouraging in the latter it was discontinued; the former is still being sunk.

The mine and machinery generally are in good working order.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,
General Managers.

BALANCE SHEET, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH NOVEMBER, 1899.	
LIABILITIES.	
Capital account—400,000 shares at 25 cents each	100,000.00
Accounts payable	2,110.99
	\$102,110.99

ASSETS.	
Cost of property	\$ 27,000.00
1/3rd cost of air compressing plant	\$7,036.27
Fixed plant	5,995.63
	18,031.90
Development	18,962.55
Stores on hand	1,217.96
Oliver's scrip—2,000 A shares at \$5	10,000.00
Cash in Hongkong & Shanghai Bank	\$18,295.31
Cash in Australia	1,901.96
Cash in hand	50.06
	20,247.33
Balance at debit of working account	11,651.25
	\$102,110.99

WORKING ACCOUNT.	
30th Nov., 1899. Dr.	
To cost of milling and assaying	\$ 700.24
To general charges in Australia	1,128.76
To travelling expenses and telegrams	905.71
To application fees and rent of gold leases	1,398.77
To Australian management	4,566.53
To General Managers' fees	2,686.68
To preliminary expenses	1,303.88
To office charges in Hongkong	97.64
To exchange	25.60
	\$12,714.79

30th Nov., 1899. Cr.	
By gold account, proceeds of gold won	\$505.79
By royalty on gold won by tributors	\$36.48
	742.25
By rent of cottages, &c.	182.21
By interest	121.38
By transfer fees	16.50
By balance	11,651.25
	\$12,714.79

The *Siam Observer* gives a delightful picture of country life in Siam. "People seem" it says, "to have been enjoying themselves in Muang Non district. During January they had only eight cases of murder there and the treasurer of the fund for the establishment of the local schools bolted with all the available cash. In February there were only two murders so there is yet some hope for the district. Our correspondent there writes that the Acting Governor, Phra Siam Non Ket, contemplates cutting a new road from Bangtanowsi to Pakret, but this will cost about 40,000 ticals and the Acting-Governor can find no one to whom to entrust the work. Up to the present he has not been able to catch any of the murderers."

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE CHINESE AND THE EMPRESS DOWAGER.

[We have ventured to cut out a few "unparliamentary" expressions which do not affect the sense of the following letter but otherwise we print it verbatim as we have received it.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HONGKONG "WEEKLY PRESS."

Hankow 3rd, March, 1900.

Dear Sir,—You were kind enough to insert in your widely circulated paper the letter you have received from our compatriots in the South. We in the North, therefore, again venture to approach you and respectfully beg you to be kind enough to grant us sufficient space upon the same subject.

LIBERTY, FREEDOM and REFORM in their letter suggest a great deal and promise much, without, however, explaining how these may be achieved.

If a Revolution must take place, in order to enable the multitudes of China to shake off the yoke of, and wipe out the disgrace brought on to them by, the present Dynasty, then the sooner it takes place the better.

But, before the Standard of Freedom is hoisted, everything necessary to insure success must also be ready—principally funds, provisions, clothing, arms and ammunition, in fact everything, to conduct a successful campaign. It is very important that everything must be honestly paid for. There must be no repetition of the atrocities committed by the leaders and the ruffians they employed during the late Taiping rebellion. The disreputable section of the Chinese must on no account be allowed to join the ranks. Foreigners possessing military training ought to be asked to assist; there are many who have served in the Chinese army, and know the Chinese thoroughly, and are willing, if requested, to do what is right and proper under the circumstances.

It is no secret that the foreign-dressed troops on the Yangtze and in the Province of Chihli are ready and quite sufficient to cope with any hordes that the Empress and her supporters may pitch against them. The Navy, or what is left of it, is with us, and will no doubt do its best to obtain the desired liberty and freedom for the Chinese people. It is freely asked why the Foreign Governments hold any intercourse with the Barbarian clique, who offer large rewards (but never intend to pay them) for the murder of Political Refugees residing in foreign countries friendly to China. The recent arrest of Mr. King, a much respected and well known Chinese gentleman, plainly shows that a band of hired assassins have been let loose, to murder anyone belonging to the Reform party. Another disgraceful edict, ordering the much lamented General Gordon's head-coolie, the present Viceroy of Canton, Li Hung-chang, to ascertain the whereabouts and efface what now remains of Kang Yu-wei's ancestral graves, is a true barbarian procedure. Could anyone blame us if "it is hoped, at no very distant date," some of us should propose to efface all traces of the graves of the present Dynasty. We may safely promise that the majority of us will decide to allow the graves remain as they are, with perhaps one exception, which shall never be allowed to poison the soil of the Flowery Land.

This kind of a woman and those prefigates she is surrounded by, have the blood of many innocent people, not only Chinese, but foreigners too, missionaries, their wives and children, on their heads; vide Report of Kuching Massacre—all a farce. We are able to prove that all these crimes were instigated by her, afterwards and blamed or shifted on to Secret Societies. The Secret Societies are not hostile towards Missionaries; on the contrary. An honest official will in every case be denounced because he is trying to do what is right and just, whereas he who proves himself an adept in the art of prevaricating and blackmailing is sure to be rewarded. One of her cliques, Shen, of cotton mill fame,

is (it is reported) expected shortly in Shanghai, and intends to visit the out-ports. Should this be the case, he may be called upon to pay the penalty of his treachery. We have no wish to record to any criminal and violent acts unless we are driven to it by these miscreants. Thanking you in anticipation, and believe us, Sir, Your sorrowing, but at the same time hopeful servants.

SIO LI AND OTHERS.

CIVIL SERVANTS' SALARIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HONGKONG
"WEEKLY PRESS."

Sir,—The thanks of the small fry of the Civil Service are due to the Honourable C. P. Chater and the Honourable T. H. Whitehead for championing their cause at yesterday's meeting of the Financial Committee. The tendency has been to keep these men, who form the backbone of the Civil Service, completely in the back-ground, and, if it were possible, to ignore their very existence. These men do not exchange compensation, no matter how low the dollar gets to. Why? Because they were not born in a gold-using country, as if they do not, owing to this adventitious circumstance of birth, consume the same goods and pay the same price for them as their more lucky fellow-servants of the public. How many of the latter remit money home? One man in ten would be over the mark.

This is class legislation with a vim, and it would appear that the Service is being run for the benefit of the few on the mutual admiration ine. After this, talk of the grievances of the Outlander!

It is with no dog-in-the-manger spirit that the subject is approached. The money belongs to the public, and, if the public do not object, let the "big fishes" gorge themselves (like Dives), but remember, some of the crumbs for Lazarus—Yours truly,

EX-CIVIL SERVANT.

CHINESE REPRESENTATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HONGKONG
"WEEKLY PRESS."

Hongkong, 10th March.

DEAR SIR,—Having been informed of the contents of a letter addressed to you by a correspondent signing himself "A Chinaman," which appeared in your issue of the 7th instant under the heading of "Chinese Representation," I cannot allow same to pass uncontradicted.

Whether "A Chinaman" purposely or unintentionally misunderstood me I cannot say, but I certainly did not say or suggest anything to the effect that "our interests in this Colony were not sufficiently represented." We are, as a matter of fact, sufficiently and efficiently represented by the ablest men of the Chinese community, and we are perfectly satisfied to leave our interests in their hands.

What I really said was that amongst the Chinese there is a lack of unity and that it was most necessary for them to unite together in rendering assistance and support to their representatives in the Legislative Council, by supplying them with their views, suggestions and informations, by taking more personal interest in the public affairs of the Colony and by earnest co-operation.

In future if "A Chinaman" has any suggestions to make for the benefit of the Chinese I hope he will cause them to be inserted in one of the Chinese newspapers which can be read and understood by most of his fellow-countrymen. His suggestions, in my opinion, should not be published in an English newspaper, which very few indeed of the Chinese have an opportunity or the ability to peruse or understand.

In conclusion I must remind "A Chinaman" (whoever he may be) that the Chinese alone can properly understand the wants of the Chinese, and that matters purely concerning or affecting the Chinese can only be advantageously discussed by the Chinese themselves through the medium of a Chinese newspaper.

Apologising for taking up a portion of the space of your valuable paper in contradicting a statement which was calculated entirely to mislead,—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

CHUN KING YUO.

TO THE EDITOR, OF THE HONGKONG
"WEEKLY PRESS."

Hongkong, 12th March.

DEAR SIR,—With reference to Mr. Chun King Yuo's letter appearing in your issue of the 12th instant, it is somewhat difficult to reconcile the inconsistency between the statements he made in the circular convening the meeting and those contained in his communication to your journal.

If it is true, as he says, that the Chinese are sufficiently and efficiently represented by the ablest men of their community, and are perfectly satisfied to leave their interests in the hands of the two hon. members, logical reasoning will lead one to the belief of the utter uselessness of calling a meeting to consider the advisability of retaining counsel and solicitors to look after their interests in connection with legislation.

The constituted members of the Chinese in the Council, by the very fact of their acceptance of the honourable positions to which they were nominated by Government, are under the strict moral obligation of doing all within their power in the best interests of their constituents without fee, fear, or favour.

With all deference to the two hon. members representing the Chinese, I quite agree with "A Chinaman" that the Chinese should petition to the Government for another representative to be elected by the ratepayers of that community. Failing the additional concession so devotedly to be wished for, a modification in the present system of nomination to one of the ordinary principles of political franchise would best meet the wishes of the Chinese.

I advance this opinion with no spirit derogatory of the character of Mr. Chun King Yuo, nor of the two representatives of Chinese.

I do not see why Mr. Chun King Yuo should object to "A Chinaman's" writing to an English newspaper for the discussion of public matters, because this is a British colony and English is the language of the place, to say nothing of the fact that most, if not all, of the intelligent Chinese speak and understand English.—Yours faithfully,

CONSISTENCY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HONGKONG
"WEEKLY PRESS."

Hongkong, 13th March.

DEAR SIR,—With reference to Mr. Chun King Yuo's reply to my letter of the 7th instant, I beg to say that I did not either purposely or unintentionally misunderstand him nor did I try to put a false construction upon the circular issued by him in order to mislead the public, as no man after reading his manifesto could have arrived at any conclusion other than the one pointed out by me.

There is a certain amount of force in your correspondent's remark that, "Chinese can alone properly understand the wants of the Chinese," but in my opinion for the present an English representative assisted and supported by the Chinese community would do as well, if not better.—Yours truly,

A CHINAMAN.

KIAYING.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Kiaying, Kwangtung, 3rd March.

The news of the setting aside of the Emperor caused no special excitement here. Some were disposed to justify it on the ground that so many untoward events had marked his reign thus far that it was evident he had no luck, and so a change was necessary. The majority were apathetic, one saying "my heart is ashes." The report of Kwang Hsu's resumption, or retention, of power was, however, received with mild but real satisfaction.

A few of the younger scholars here regard themselves as Progressives. Education, material development, and the revival of Confucianism are their aims, and they look to Japan for their inspiration. They have a degree of patriotism, but little moral earnestness. Unless the adherents of Reform elsewhere are made of sterner stuff they will not soon revolutionise the present order. Superstition they affect to despise, but have no notion of taking up the cudgels against opium, licentiousness, or gambling.

British reverses in Africa are much talked about. There is a considerable emigration to that part of the world from here, which accounts for the exceptional interest taken. The opinion seems to be gaining ground that England cannot be nearly so powerful as was supposed. The early and complete triumph of the Imperial forces will doubtless correct this impression.

A short time ago lightning struck one of the buildings of the Base Mission doing considerable damage and so injuring a workman that it was two hours before he regained consciousness. Some years ago a stroke of lightning killed a native preacher on the identical spot. That is singular enough, but not so strange as this. The building was erected on the site of a pawnshop twice struck by lightning and abandoned as unlucky. A native theory accounts for it by supposing a great store of copper coin to have been buried there in laiping days or before.

An agent of the Dutch Government has been here for the last two months.

P. S.—I have just heard that the powder magazine in Chouhoufu, near the North Gate, blew up a few days ago, destroying thirty buildings and many lives and frightening the Taotai nearly to death.

MANILA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

MANILA, 6th March.

EMPTY PORTS.—SCARCITY OF TROOPS—

THE REIGN OF TERROR.

Gradually the situation in the southern islands is improving, although there will be much work, and an endless amount of bushwhacking before affairs will settle back into their normal state. The placing of troops at the various ports has thrown a year's produce upon the markets, and in spite of the insurrection all the available coasting steamers have been more than a month busily engaged in carrying the goods to Manila. The same feverish race is on to-day that marked the first opening of ports; ships come in and go out under full heads of steam and cargo; coolies are in demand more than ever. The next month and a half to two months should see every port cleared out as clean as a whistle, and then it is more than likely that many of the ships will be idle again. The smouldering insurrection and active *ladrones* will prevent cultivation on any extensive scale for months to come, and if present indications count for anything I should say that next year's output will be limited. At the time of writing many of the ports are empty, every shred of hemp or leaf of tobacco having been taken off by the steamers. The rest are fast transferring their goods to ships' holds. While the ports are comparatively safe the interior is, however, a mire of quicksand, and no sane person ventures away from the vicinity of the American garrisons. A few energetic natives and Chinamen who went inland to look after their crops have failed to return and others are naturally hesitating to repeat the performance. There are tons of marketable stuff in the interior, but the insurgents and *ladrones* will not allow it to pass to the coasts. It is rumoured that much of the money paid by shippers and hemphouses for the thousands of bales sent to Manila has already found its way into the insurgent coffers, and if this is true its disposition may be speculated upon. There will probably be another brisk season among the filibusters of China and Japan.

INTERIOR GARRISONS AT PRESENT

IMPOSSIBLE.

It is planned for the American troops to occupy the inland towns as rapidly as possible, but I fear the department has again underestimated the strength of the enemy. The men that have been sent south have been almost entirely engaged in protecting themselves and holding the ports. Attempts have been made here and there to penetrate the interior, but nothing substantial has resulted. It is quite possible for a reasonably small force to make its way almost anywhere it chooses, but that is not the point; to gain anything it is absolutely necessary to have detachments quartered at short intervals, otherwise peace is exceedingly doubtful and common safety is unknown. The

present number of troops is much too small. The port of Legaspi has been occupied for several weeks and there have been numerous expeditions from this point inland, but life and property are deemed so unsafe that the inhabitants—that is the Spaniards and foreigners—spend the nights on board merchant steamers whenever this is possible, and when there are no steamers they sleep in the convent with the soldiers. The natives are constantly making great disturbances and occasional attacks thus keeping the garrison always on the *qui vive*.

THE REIGN OF TERROR.

In the provinces of Albay and Sorsogon, two of the richest in the archipelago, one Paua, a Chinese half-caste, is carrying on the most destructive raid that has yet been encountered. His policy is suicidal, for in the end the punishment will fall back on his unfortunate followers. Wherever he goes he leaves a trail of blood and fire, and he is said to have boasted that when the Americans do gain possession they will find only a desert coast. Certainly he has destroyed acres and acres of the most productive districts and whole plantations of hemp have been burned and ruined beyond redemption. It will take years to raise new crops and rebuild the haciendas. The ravages have not been confined to property alone, but women and children have been outraged and killed. It is a veritable rule of blood. The authorities are making every effort to break up his force and capture or kill him, but so far limited numbers have prevented success. An expedition is now under way with instructions to destroy the whole outfit, and in the next few days we should hear that Paua's reign of terror is at an end.

GENERAL BATES IN THE CAMARINES.

General Bates has about completed a successful campaign in the Camarines north of Legaspi, and the rebel forces have as usual split up and taken to the hills, from whence they propose to descend in occasional raids upon the peaceful inhabitants. However, the mountains are not productive districts, and it takes a large amount of food to maintain the Filipino troops if there be any reasonable force. Besides, Bates has determined on a firm and active campaign, and already the troublesome districts have been mapped out and special commands assigned to each. They have instructions to live on the country and hound the enemy to a finish. The troops are volunteers and anxious for glory, and it is likely that most of the bands will soon be rounded up. It must not be forgotten that there is a large area of difficult country to cover, and unless some additions are made to the present troops the pacification of the country may be a long story.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT).

Canton, 14th March.

On the 12th inst. the French Minister from Peking, together with the French Consul of Canton and several officials, made an official call on H.E. the Viceroy Li-hung-chang. On their arrival at the entrance of the *yamen* a salute of three guns was fired, and a guard of honour, drilled in foreign fashion, was posted along the passage by which they walked up to a large hall. In the hall a number of mandarins in gorgeous dress were standing to receive the distinguished guests, and conducted them into the presence of the Viceroy in the large reception room. They were served with tea and cakes. After a pretty long conversation, in which both parties exchanged expressions of friendly regard, the Minister and party left well satisfied. The 11th was the day previously fixed for the visit, but as it was the day of Kee Shan, the anniversary of the death of an Emperor, the official visit was put off till next day.

Kok-fau is a place where all the flower boats remain at anchor. There are from 50 to 60 boats, the largest of which is enough to accommodate about two hundred persons. The singing girls living there number between six or seven thousand. Wine-drinking, music and singing are kept up the whole night. Some visitors go there, no doubt, simply to show off; others go to spend their superfluous dollars. The official class go there to talk about their squeeze over the opium, while the merchants go to talk and conclude their business transactions over cups of tea. The gamblers, rogues, thieves, vagabonds and beggars

go there to make money. For a middle class boat, with dinner, girls, singing and music, one has to spend from \$50 to \$60 a night, or sometimes more. There are many bamboo bridges and planks placed between the boats for guests to go across from one boat to another. It so happened that, on the night of the 11th instant, while the singing and revelry were going on in one of the boats, a large number of people were standing on the flimsy bridge to witness the scene and enjoy the music and singing, when down went the bridge with a crash and precipitated them into the river. As it was a dark night help could scarcely have been rendered. It was reported that about twenty persons were drowned.

In the village of Pak-Kong, of Chang-Shing district, the native Roman Catholics, who outnumber the Protestants, on account of a certain quarrel set fire to and burnt down over forty houses of the native Protestants. On the 24th of last month, one Roman Catholic was caught by the Protestants, who bathed him all over his body with kerosine, set fire to him, and burnt him to death. The matter was reported to the District Magistrate pending further inquiry.

Liu, the Pun Yü Magistrate, is to be transferred to Swatow. On the 12th inst. a number of Chinese went in a long procession to his *yamen*, and bidding him farewell, presented him with a gilded tablet, praising his uprightness and justice. A new magistrate, Chien Po Yu, comes to take up his post on the 15th inst.

To a casual visitor the sight of the jails of the Nam Hoi Magistrate's *yamen* is simply disgusting. On account of the diseases prevalent there, and being badly fed and clad, forty persons died during one month and a half.

A certain Lok Chee Wan has presented a petition to the Viceroy asking for a licence to construct waterworks for the supply of Canton, and offers to pay \$20,000 per annum. Any house within the city and in the suburbs which requires water supply has to pay twenty cents per annum. The petition has been transmitted by the Viceroy to the provincial judge and the Board of Agriculture for consideration and report.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

On the 9th instant a telegram was received in Canton from Peking, saying that Shen Ping, a reformer bearing the title of Hanlin, who was arrested under instruction of the Empress Dowager by the acting viceroy of Nanking, had been sentenced to servitude for life. Some time ago Shen Ping presented a memorial to the Empress Dowager reflecting on Yung Lu and Kang-yi, and asking earnestly for the restoration of the poor Emperor Kwang Hsu to the throne. His memorial was much against the feeling of Kang-yi, who had several times entreated the Empress Dowager to put him to death.

The Viceroy has taken some active measures to effect the capture of Au San and Fo-Tsan-hoi, leaders of the Saichiu brigands. A reward of \$5,000 and an official rank have been offered for the capture of each of them. On the 16th ult. a number of soldiers were sent to effect the arrest of Au San. After a hard fight between the soldiers and the robbers, Au San made good his escape. Fifteen robbers were captured alive, and several were fatally shot. On the soldiers' side one was killed and several were wounded. Fo-Tsan-hoi, being mightily afraid of the action taken by the Viceroy, has now hidden himself in the fastness of the mountains of Hok Shan.

An explosion took place on the 24th ultimo in a powder magazine in Kam-Shau, Chin-chow district. Over two hundred houses were destroyed and about thirty persons were killed. Fortunately a good number of the inhabitants had gone from their homes to see a procession in the neighbouring place, when the accident occurred, or the catastrophe would have been much more serious. The shock was felt at the distance of over one hundred li.

A merchant named Lok-chi-wan has applied to the Viceroy, asking to be allowed to construct water-works to supply water to the houses throughout the whole city of Canton. He promises to pay to the Government twenty

thousand taels annually. He is to charge each house twenty cents a month as subscription. After deducting all the expenses, the profits realized by the undertaking will be used to defray the expenses of clearing the drains throughout the city. The Viceroy has instructed the provincial treasurer to take the question into consideration.

A merchant has presented a petition to the viceroy asking to be allowed to complete the reclamation work on the river bund, which was commenced by viceroy Chang Chih-tung and discontinued by viceroy Li Han-chang, elder brother of Li Hung-chang. It is said that His Excellency is willing to sanction the request.

FOOTBALL

THE REPLAYED SEMI-FINAL—MARINE ENGINEERS V. C. CO., R.W.F.

The above-named teams met for the second time in the Hongkong Challenge Shield competition on Saturday afternoon, 10th inst., the first match having ended in a pointless draw. The game was played on the Happy Valley ground and the teams started rather before the advertised time. A large crowd watched the Fusiliers win for themselves the right of playing in the Final tie, when they will meet the H Co. of the same regiment. The game was keenly contested, as the Fusiliers considered that they ought to have won the game on the previous Saturday and felt that the referees had dealt hardly with them. On the present occasion Mr. Green filled that difficult office and acquitted himself well. It was a generally held opinion before the match that the winners of this tie would be "a good thing" for the Final. The Fusiliers ultimately won a good match by two goals to nil, but the game was more even than this score would indicate. The winners, however, fully deserved their victory, as they showed considerably more dash, and their left outside and centre forwards combined well. The Engineers played a neat game but were not up to the mark near goal, and consequently their attack gave less trouble than the Welshmen to the opposing backs. The Engineer full-backs played well, on the whole, but their goal-keeper did not do himself justice. On the other side the Fusilier's keeper did all that was asked of him. In spite of the feeling exhibited in the previous game the match on Saturday was very well conducted, and fouls were not frequent.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

"O" MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

The usual monthly picnic to Stonecutter's Island in connection with the "C" Machine Gun Company of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps took place yesterday. In the volley-firing competition, which was won by No. 2 gun (right half) on the previous visit to the Island, No. 4 gun (left half) headed the list with 96 points. The winning team was composed of Corporal Sherwin (in charge), Bombardier Berkley, Gunners Gidley and Michael. The following are the details:—

	Fire discipline.	Hits	Total
No. 4 gun (left half)	40	56	96
No. 2 gun (right half)	35	45	80
No. 1 gun (right half)	39	35	68
No. 3 gun (left half)	35	15	50

The competition between the right and left halves at 200 and 400 yards (seven rounds each target) was won by the right half, who scored 246 to 217. The following were the winners of spoons (scores including handicaps points):—

Gunner Shoolbred...	50
Gunner C. Lee	50
Gunner McCorquodale	49
Sergeant Smillie	49
Gunner Gloyn	48
Captain Potts	48

"A" MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

The monthly competitions of the above Company were brought to a close last week on the Association Range.

Bomb. King and Gunner Wodehouse have each two wins to their credit on No. 1 and 2 Guns and Bomb. Plummer has two wins on the No. 3 Gun only.

These members will therefore have to shoot off the ties on a convenient future date.

The winner of Capt. Sanders' Cup proved to be Gunner H. S. Holmes. The conditions were that each member must have attended eight out of twelve competition. A final shot and special handicap (sealed) was then arranged for those eligible to compete.

The following are the 10 best scores:—

	200 yds.	400 yds.	500 yds.	Handicap	Total.
* Bomb. Plummer	25	27	27	17	96
* Gunner H. S. Holmes	31	29	29	6	95
* Sergt.-Major myth	30	34	27	so.	91
* Gunner Mayson	25	29	24	13	91
Sergt. Lammert	27	33	30	so.	97
Corpl. Nicholson	25	17	24	21	87
Gunner Harthhouse	21	21	25	15	82
Capt. Sanders	24	26	16	16	82
Gunner Wodehouse	18	25	27	10	80
Gunner Cox	20	27	21	9	77

Winner of Capt. Sanders Cup, Gunner H. S. Holmes. Winner of No. 1 Cup, Bomb Plummer. * Winners of Spoons.

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP AND SILVER MEDAL FOR MARCH.

In perfect golfing weather and with links in excellent order a large number of members turned out to take part in the last monthly competition for Mr. Thurburn's Cup, for final possession of which eight players, present in the colony, will have to meet at an early date. The following are the returns handed in, amongst which for steady play the card of Lieut. McKenzie-Grieve, R.N.,—4, 4, 4, 3, 6, 7, 5, 6—43 and 5, 4, 5, 3, 6, 5, 5—43, is quite the best:—

CAPTAIN'S CUP.				
Lieut. Farie, R.N.	96	14	82	
Comdr. Davison, R.N.	98	13	85	
Mr. C. Palmer	94	9	85	
Mr. J. T. H. McMurtrie	86	0	86	
Surg. Whitelegge, R.N.	98	10	88	
Mr. W. J. Saunders	101	12	89	

31 entries.

POOL.				
Lieut. C. H. Forbes, R.N.	90	11	79	
Lieut. Farie, R.N.	96	14	82	
Lt. McKenzie-Grieve, R.N.	86	2	84	
Comdr. Davison, R.N.	98	13	85	
Mr. J. H. T. McMurtrie	86	0	86	
Surg. Whitelegge, R.N.	98	10	88	
Lieut. J. A. Moreton, R.N.	100	11	89	
Mr. W. J. Saunders	101	12	89	
Mr. S. Fulcher	106	16	90	
Mr. C. H. Grace	102	12	90	

30 entries.

HONGKONG.

H. E. Major-General Gascoigne made his annual inspection of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in the Barracks Compound, off Garden Road, on the 14th inst. The men, who carried their full kit, looked very smart, and evidently gave every satisfaction.

At about three p.m. on the 9th inst. a fire broke out at 77, Wellington street. The Fire Brigade, under Deputy-Superintendent Mackie, was soon on the scene and extinguished the flames in about half an hour. Not much damage was done.

Shortly after eight p.m. on the 11th inst. fire broke out in the second floor of 125, Wing Lok Street, which is used as an earthenware store, through some straw being set alight by some coolies who were working on the premises with torches. The Nam Pak On Fire Station being close at hand, a despatch box was soon got out and the Fire Brigade were able to extinguish the flames before very much damage was done.

At the Magistracy on the 9th inst. a Chinaman was charged with being in possession of 50 mace (19 raw, 17 prepared, and 15 dross) of opium at Lyeemoon village, without a license. Formerly the defendant had a license, but he has been without for some time, and as he was suspected of dealing in opium the police visited his house on Thursday afternoon armed with a search warrant. They found the opium mentioned and a complete set of apparatus for boiling opium. A fine of \$500—the maximum penalty—was imposed.

The Police made a raid on house No. 56, Third Street, on Saturday night and arrested twenty-seven men who were engaged in gambling. One was fined \$25, another \$10, and the rest \$3 each.

On Monday a Chinaman died in the Tung Wa Hospital from blood poisoning. The other day his arm was injured while he was engaged working on board a junk, and through his neglecting to have it attended to properly blood-poisoning set in.

The return showing the number of cases of communicable disease in the colony during the week ending 10th March shows that there has been one case only, and that of small-pox in the harbour. This, too, was imported from Singapore.

A Chinawoman, who had been previously convicted for a similar offence, was fined \$100, or three months, at the Magistracy on the 13th inst. for infringing the privilege of the Postmaster-General by carrying mail matter out of the colony. She was arrested by Lance-Sergeant Terrett on board a boat which was about to proceed to Canton. She had three bundles in her possession, containing parcels and about 100 letters.

Colour-Sergeant J. E. Jones, of the R.W.F. appeared at the Magistracy on the 9th inst. to give evidence against two chair coolies. When returning from the regimental ball on Thursday morning he called to the defendants to carry his wife to the Peak. They, however, cleared off, as also did two other chair coolies. He followed the defendants, who left their chair and hats and got away. He, however, got their numbers and they were subsequently arrested. They were each sentenced to 10 days' imprisonment.

On Monday night the variety entertainment given on Saturday by the Royal Engineers Variety Club was repeated. The principal item on the programme was a sketch entitled "To Paris and back for £5." Sapper Wilburst took the leading part, and he was ably assisted by Bugler J. Nicklen, Private Pitt, and Sappers Housely and Booty. Three songs were contributed by Sergeant Viggers, and Corporal Summers sang with great success: "No surrender," "Soldiers of the Queen," "Sons of England," and "The Absent-minded beggar."

The police are engaged in making enquiries into the circumstances connected with the death of a Chinese girl, aged 18 years, who was found drowned, on Wednesday afternoon, by a Chinese policeman at Sui Ching Wan, the other side of Taikoo Sugar Refinery. The girl, who lives at 25, Hollywood Road, left home to go to the Belilios School for girls as usual on Wednesday morning. She appears, however, never to have arrived there, and the supposition is that she went out east and committed suicide. Apparently the girl had not been dead long when found by the constable.

A Chinaman was brought before Mr. Gomperts at the Magistracy on the 14th inst. charged with breaking into a curio shop at 13, Lyndhurst Terrace. On Sunday morning the occupier reported to the Central Police Station that early that morning his premises had been broken into and five clocks and about \$20 worth of clothing stolen. Entrance had been effected by way of a door at the back, the door having been removed from the hinges. A few hours afterwards the prisoner was seen by a district watchman to be carrying a bundle at West Point, and on the bundle being examined it was found to contain the stolen property. The man was accordingly taken into custody.

At the Magistracy on the 14th inst. a Chinaman was charged with breaking into a curio shop at No. 13, Lyndhurst Terrace, early on Sunday morning, and stealing therefrom five clocks and a quantity of cloth. He was taken into custody at West Point the same day, four of the clocks and 11 pieces of clothing being found in his possession. Inspector Baker said that when searched a dagger was found upon him. The fifth clock was subsequently discovered in a pawnshop, and the pawnbroker identified the prisoner as the man who had pawned it. The prisoner said another man engaged him to carry the things to Wanchai, telling him to pawn them there. His Worship said he would sentence the prisoner to three months imprisonment with hard labour for receiving stolen property well knowing it to have been stolen.

The Coroner's Returns for 1899 shows that formal enquiries were held on 9 Europeans and Americans (8 men, 1 woman), 51 Chinese (44 men, 3 women, 4 children), one Indian and one of nationality unknown; while there were buried without formal enquiries 15 Europeans and Americans (2 men, 2 women, one boy), 1,641 (619 men, 196 women, 422 boys, 396 girls, and 8 of sex not ascertainable); and two Indians (men).

As will be seen from the notice which appeared in our issue of the 10th inst. the entries for the various tennis events of the Hongkong Cricket Club came on the 27th instant, at 6 p.m. Intending competitors may enter for the following:—Championship (best of 5 sets throughout); Single Handicap, divided into two classes (best of 5 sets in the final only); Veterans Single Handicap (best of 3 sets throughout); Professional Pairs and Double Handicap (best of 5 sets in the final only).

Consul-General Wildman and Mrs. Wildman entertained a large party at the United States Consulate on Saturday evening, 10th inst., among those present being His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.) and Lady Blake, His Excellency Major-General Gascoigne, C.M.G., and Mrs. Gascoigne, Commodore and Mrs. Powell, Colonel Brown, etc. The Band of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers was in attendance and played selections during the evening and for dancing after supper. A solo on the pianoforte was played by Signor Né Pasca Galuzzi. Mr. Coleman and Mr. Howard, of the U.S.S. *Monadnock*, gave a musical sketch; Mrs. Badelay sang a song; and the comedietta, "The Baron's Wager" (by Sir Charles Young) was contributed by Mrs. Wildman and Mr. Hay. The grounds attached to the Consulate were plentifully decorated with Chinese lanterns.

While the watchman on board the German steamer *Heidelberg* was parading the deck as the vessel lay alongside the wharf at Kowloon on Wednesday evening, he noticed a Chinaman crouching over some hose which was laid out ready in case of emergency. As soon as he saw the watchman the Chinaman pushed the hose under some planks and then ran. The watchman followed round to the other side of the ship and caught him. It was subsequently discovered that he had cut two brass couplings from the hose and had endeavoured to hide them when the watchman came in sight. The man was charged with stealing the couplings at the magistracy on the 15th inst. and sentenced to two months' hard labour.

A large congregation was assembled in St. John's Cathedral Monday evening, when an organ recital was given by Mr. A. W. Ward, assisted by Mrs. Vallings as soloist. Mrs. Vallings gave an excellent rendering of "The Lost Chord," and sang the recitative and arioso from Mendelssohn's "St. Paul," and he journeyed with companions toward Damascus and "But the Lord is mindful of His own," with exquisite taste. Mr. Ward's contributions, which were rendered with his usual skill, were:—Sonata (No. 6), Mendelssohn; Chorale—Andante sostenuto—Allegro molto—Fuga—Finale (Andante);—Allegretto in B minor, Guilman;—Larghetto, Merkel; Siciliano, Marshall; Berceuse, Delbrück;—Funeral March, "On the death of a hero," Beethoven. A collection was made in aid of the organ fund.

Another boxing contest took place in the Theatre Royal on the 14th inst., when the principal event was a 12-round contest for the middle-weight championship of Hongkong, between T. Armstrong, of H.M.S. *Centurion*, and A. Monk, of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, two minute rounds, one minute interval. The men were about equal in height and were about the same build. A good show was, therefore, anticipated. After getting in a couple of blows on the chin, however, Monk was unexpectedly knocked out in the first round, getting a nasty blow over the region of the heart which felled him and caused him to be counted out. Armstrong thus being the winner. The programme also included three exhibition contests, namely a four-round contest between A. Bratt of H.M.S. *Centurion*, and Nicholson, of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers; a three-round contest between J. Harvey and E. Wackett, both of H.M.S. *Pigmy*; and a three-round contest between E. Purnell and G. Bridges, both of H.M.S. *Centurion*.

There were 3,074 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 346 were Europeans.

Mr. Kwong Chik has sent us a box of fresh strawberries from his plantation at Happy Valley which he states have been raised from American seeds with chemical fertilisers and kept clean and fresh by straw beds. The strawberries are excellent samples of what might be done in the colony in the way of fruit-growing, if the Chinese gardeners took the task patiently and considerably in hand. Magnificent grapes, pears, plums, cherries, apples and strawberries are grown in the North, particularly at Chefoo, where the natives have been taught fruit culture, and they supply not only Shanghai but Vladivostok with the same. Mr. Kwong Chik deserves great credit for his enterprise, and it is to be trusted his example will be followed by other native gardeners when they realise how profitable fruit-growing may be. Hongkong is already noted for the beauty of the European flowers grown here; there is no climatic reason why it should not be equally noted for its fruit.

MISCELLANEOUS.

There has been published at Peking an Imperial Decree promoting Li Sheng-tu, Chinese Minister at Tokio, to be a Reader of the Grand Secretariat. Li Sheng-tu is eldest son of the philanthropist, Li Ching-yung.

On the 23rd ult. the Japanese House of Peers by a large majority passed through all its stages a Bill sent up from the Lower House to impose a duty on fish imported from Russia. Siberia. There was a heated debate, we are told.

The Bangkok Race Club is considering whether their races should not be confined to natives, or half-bred ponies. Opinions are divided, but all are agreed that there should be only one cup. "as race-horses cannot be kept on cups," as a contemporary puts it.

The *Siam Free Press* in an editorial tells its readers that "the Japanese since the war, have occupied Wei-hai-wei. . . . An alliance and joint occupation of Wei-hai-wei by the English and Japanese is spoken of. But the Japanese who are in possession have shown no disposition up to the present to divide their spoil." Some of the mails to Bangkok must surely have miscarried."

A certain Abul Karim Munshi tells the *Advocate of India* that Lord Northcote's arrival in Bombay is especially held auspicious by the Mussulmans, as the name "Lord Northcote" itself is a chronogram bearing the exact current year of the Mahomedan era. This method of counting the years of good and bad events is well-known all over the Moslem world by the name of *abjad*.

The *Japan Daily Mail*, speaking of Li Hung-chang's order that the bones of Kang Yu-wei's ancestors should be scattered to the four winds, reminds its readers of that "the tomb of the Mahdi in the Soudan was similarly treated by a British General in very recent times," and adds, "We are living in glass houses." The cases, of course, are not on all fours, but there is a certain point in the reminder.

A Peking telegram, says the *North China Daily News*, states that H. E. Sheng has been denounced by a censor, a partisan of Prince Ching, on the ground that Sheng himself sent news to King Lien-shan of his proposed arrest and advising him to leave Shanghai. The censor therefore recommends that Sheng be given a month to capture King, failing which Sheng should suffer the sentence destined for King.

The surplus revenue of Burma last year amounted to 293 lakhs of rupees, having risen from 235 lakhs, the surplus of the previous year. Deducting the cost of the garrison of Burma, which amounts to 38 lakhs, viz. slightly over 13 lakhs for the Rangoon district, 24 lakhs for Mandalay district, and about a quarter lakh for the Shan States command, there is a net surplus of 255 lakhs, which represents Burma's contribution to the Imperial Exchequer.

Mr. Erich Georg in his Weekly Share List says "A very fair business has been transacted during the week under review and in most cases at an advance on previous rates, especially so China Sugars and China and Manila, while a

few stocks, principally Fire Insurance shares, having fallen a little." A telegram from Singapore says that the January-February clean-up at the Raub Mines yielded 2,050 ounces smelted gold from 2,150 tons of ore crushed.

It is reported in mandarin circles that the Empress Dowager has decided to close the Peking University on the ground that no progress has been made after a trial of over one year. A decree is also said to have been issued closing all schools and colleges of Western learning, established since 1893 under Government auspices, on the ground that there is no money in the Imperial Exchequer for such a purpose, and further because these schools only turn out men hostile to the conservative policy of the Government.

The *Tribune des Colonies* tells a wonderful story of the English censorship over telegrams at Aden. It states that a telegram was addressed to Paris, requesting "that fifteen thousand francs should be sent to a certain M. Crétols in payment for certain property purchased. The English censor read the words "Envoyes 15,000 Crétols" as meaning that the Boers had commandeered 15 thousand Crétans! The *Tribune* politely concludes that we are as foolish as we are pretentious. The story is a pretty one—but we thought the proverb said it was the Crétans who were liars.

A fire broke out in the Lau-Kung-Mao Cotton Mill, Shanghai, at about 6 a.m. on the 7th inst., doing damage estimated at about 10,000 taels. The fire originated in the mixing-room and 600 piculs of cotton, placed there the previous night, were destroyed. The building escaped injury, but the leather belting room below was damaged by water. The business of the mill has not been impeded to any material extent by the outbreak. As to the origin of the fire, it is considered probable that the cause was a match, dropped by one of the Chinese or by one of the hands smoking in the mixing room. Good service was done by the Grinnell sprinklers, with which the works are fitted, and the hands also worked willingly in preventing the spread of the flames, the Fire Brigade not being called out. The insurance on the building is divided amongst all the principal Shanghai offices.

A native Peking correspondent of *The North China Daily News* says that on the 4th inst. the Grand Council received reliable information that the Reform Party, being assisted by Chinese abroad and secret societies hostile to the Manchu dynasty, intend to proceed to active rebellion the moment Kwang Hsu is superseded or if news is received of his Majesty's death. The acting Viceroy of the Liangkang provinces further confidentially reported that no less than 140,000 Hunanese in his jurisdiction were ripe for rebellion, and were only kept quiet by the influence of the ex-Viceroy Liu, a Hunanese. A secret Council was held before the Empress Dowager at once, and Jung Lu, asked as to the fidelity of the Grand Army under him, said that, if a rebellion arose on account of the Emperor's deposition, he could not guarantee the troops from joining their countrymen, the Chinese in the Grand Army numbering nine-tenths. Prince's Ching and Tunn (father of the Heir Apparent) successfully answered that the Manchus of the Peking Field Force and Banner Corps were quite sufficient to fight not only the Chinese but any other probable enemy. It is expected that this will further diminish Jung Lu's influence with the Empress Dowager.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.		
EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.		
	1899-1900	1898-99
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai...	13,160,074	12,061,298
Amoy.....	489,347	688,318
Foochow	16,174,605	12,976,578
Canton	6,408,430	4,913,484
	36,222,536	30,639,678

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA		
	1899-1900	1898-99
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow...	25,694,454	22,783,272

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1899-1900	1898-99
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai.....	20,293,296	18,661,574
Amoy	12,843,103	14,239,400
Foochow	9,629,601	9,158,280
	42,566,010	39,059,263

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1899-1900	1898-99
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama ...	26,412,356	25,618,523
Kobe.....	14,044,235	13,840,471
	40,456,591	39,478,994

SILK.

CANTON, 3rd March.—Tatless and Re-reels.—No settlements are reported in these classes. Filatures.—Prices continued to decline, and Filatures of all grades were almost entirely neglected during the first half of the fortnight. Latterly, interest has been aroused by the extremely low laying down cost, and about 350 bales have been bought principally by two firms, probably to make an average for their previous high purchases. From prices paid quotations are: \$1,130/1,100 for Kwong Sun Cheong and Miu King Lun 11/13, \$1,090 for Kwong King Yuen 11/13, \$1,080 for Kwong Sun On 11/13, Ying Kee, Cheong Kee, Sun Yue Lun and Shing King Lun 9/11, \$1,070 for Kai Sun Cheong 13/15 and Shing King Wo 9/11, \$1,045 for Kong Wa Lun 10/12, \$1,40 for Quan On Tai 10/12, Mee Kee 10/13, Cheong Sing 11/13 and Hing Loong Cheong 10/12, \$1,030 for Kwong Wo 10/12, Ying Wo 10/22 and How King Cheong 13/15, full \$1,020 for Kai Cheong Lun 11/13, \$970 for Soey Wo Cheong 10/12, \$940 for Wai King Wo 18/22 \$920 for King Wo Cheong 18/22, \$940/885 for Good No. 3 11/13 and 13/15. Short-reels.—About 100 bales have been bought for New York. Waste.—Nothing has been done and prices are very weak. Appended are quotations in Canton, with laying down cost in London and Lyons Exchange 4 months' sight, 1/11, and Fcs. 2.50 per Dollar:—

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1899-1900	1898-9
	bales.	bale.
Shanghai	62,473	51,722
Canton	24,784	24,138
Yokohama	16,866	18,584
	104,123	94,444

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1899-1900	1898-9
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	15,659	6,928
Canton	7,645	7,901
Yokohama.....	29,148	26,437
	52,452	31,266

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 16th March.—There is an improvement in the market and the price is advancing. Quotations for Formosa are \$91.00 to \$91.50; sales 350 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 16th March.—The weakness continues and the decline in prices continues. Quotations are:—

Shuekloong, No. 1, White...	\$8.00 to \$8.05	cl.
do. " 2, White...	7.25 to 7.30	"
Shuekloong, No. 1, Brown...	5.50 to 5.55	"
do. " 2, Brown...	5.30 to 5.35	"
Swatow, No. 1, White...	8.10 to 8.15	"
do. " 1, White...	7.35 to 7.40	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	5.40 to 5.45	"
do. " 2, Brown...	5.25 to 5.30	"
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	11.35 to 11.90	"
Shuekloong	9.58 to 9.90	"

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Laos*, sailed on the 12th March. For Marseilles:—65 bales raw silk, 4 cases waste silk, 7 cases silks, 11 cases Chinaware, 6 cases curios, 20 cases staranized, 6 cases copper coins, and 25 packages tea. For Lyons:—452 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Alesia*, sailed on the 1st March. For Havre:—5 cases human hair, 6 cases bristles, 20 cases paper, 28 cases blackwoodware, 39 cases cases Chinaware, 193 packages canes, and 463 packages tea. For Havre and/or Hamburg:—10 cases blackwoodware, 16 cases Chinaware, and 244 rolls mats. For Havre and/or Marseilles:—1 case bristles. For Havre and/or Bordeaux:—52 rolls mats. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—20 cases bristles. For Hamburg:—1 case curios, 2 cases sundries, 5 cases camphorwood, 10 cases bristles, 10 rolls matting, 12 cases cigars, 20 bales rattan-shavings, 60 cases firecrackers, 100 bales feathers, 300 cases cassia buds, and 426 packages canes. For Hamburg and/or Antwerp:—62 bales canes. For Hamburg and/or London:—4 cases human hair. For London:—20 boxes essential oil.

Per German steamer *Bayern*, sailed on the 7th March. For Smyrna:—20 cases essential oil and 125 bales rattan-shaving. For Trieste:—100 boxes cassia. For Genoa:—190 bales raw silk. For Antwerp:—412 bales bamboo scrap, 186 bales split bamboo, 90 cases preserves, 70 bales feathers, 32 bales rattan-core, 7 cases Chinaware, and 2 cases private effects. For Antwerp/Hamburg:—40 bales feathers. For Antwerp/Hamburg/London:—15 cases bristles. For Amsterdam:—65 cases preserves and 33 cases Chinaware. For Bremen:—461 rolls matting, 5 cases China ink, and 9 cases sundries. For Hamburg:—1,000 boxes tea, 405 bales feathers, and 50 bales cassia buds.

Per P. & O. steamer *Ceylon*, sailed on the 8th March. For London:—1 case cigars from Manila, 8 packages hom tips from Foochow, 23 cases cigars, 11 bales canes, 292 casks and 19 boxes preserves, 1 case curios, 237 cases Chinaware, 28 cases blackwoodware, 3 cases silks, 188 rolls matting, 5 cases private effects, 17 cases camphorwood trunks, 15 packages tea, and 2 cases China ink.

OPIUM.

Malwa.—Some business was done at last rates but market closes weak.

Bengal.—Hardened again and prices have also advanced. Patna at \$1,045, Old Benares \$1,060 New Benares \$1,037½.

Persian.—No change to report. Prices are \$870/880 for best drug.

To-day's stocks are:—

Patna	1,136 chests.
Benares	293 ..
Malwa	573½ ..
Persian	1,774½ ..
Turkey	35 ..

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old
899.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mar. 10	1032½	—	105½	—	930/940	950/960
Mar. 12	1045	—	1040	1066	930/940	950/960
Mar. 13	1045	—	1040	1065	930/940	950/960
Mar. 14	1045	—	1040	1065	930/940	950/960
Mar. 15	1045	—	1040	1065	930/940	950/960
Mar. 16	1045	—	1037½	1060	930/940	950/960

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 16th March.—Small business at a rise of \$1½. Market closes quiet. Stock, about 3,000 bales.

Bombay	27.00 to 30.00 picul.
Kurrachee	— to —
Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca	29.00 to 30.00 picul.
Shanghai and Japanese ..	27.50 to 29.50 ..
Tungchow and Ningpo	27.50 to 29.50 ..
Marsna (Best)	—
Sales: 70 bales.	

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee Says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 16th March.—We have had another barren fortnight in our Yarn market, the firmness of holders again restricting business to actual daily requirements. Annexed quotations are the equivalent of prices ruling in the country.

and must be considered purely nominal, as holders refuse to sell except at an advance of \$3 to \$4 per bale. The market may be said to be \$5 to \$6 firmer over previous values and closes very strong with a decided tendency to higher prices. The improvement reported from Bombay has been confirmed, and later on a material decline in exchange is expected which will further enhance the laying down cost.

Local Manufacture.—Sales of 200 bales No. 10s. of the Hongkong S. W. and Dying Mills at from \$100 to \$102½ are reported.

Japanese Yarn.—Has continued very strong, business being restricted to two favourite Chops of No. 20s. prices showing an advance of \$6 to \$7 per bale. Sales reported are 375 bales Saito at from \$112 to \$118 and 225 bales Ashai at from \$111 to \$117, market closing very firm.

Raw Cotton.—The most salient feature of the fortnight has been the sale of a parcel of 104 bales middling Orleans at \$29.60 for the Japan markets. The Cotton appears not to be in much favour with the natives on account of its too long staple. In Indian descriptions an improvement of one to a Dollar and a half per picul may be quoted, a choice parcel of 67 bales superfine machine ginned Bengal having been picked up at \$30. No other business in Indian kinds is reported, the ideas of both holders and dealers being at present too wide apart to lead to further progress. Estimated unsold stock about 2,200 bales. No sales or stock of Rangoon Cotton. In China kinds sales of 200 bales Ningpo at from \$28½ to \$29½ are reported; stock 400 bales. Quotations are: Bengal \$24 to \$30, Rangoon \$27 to \$29 and China \$28 to \$30. American \$28 to \$32.

From Shanghai the undernoted limited business is reported in Indian, Japanese and Local spinnings during the fortnight ending 11th instant.

Indian.—Total sales 3,280 bales comprising 32,78 bales of No. 10s, 125 bales of No. 12s, 37 bales of No. 16s, and 390 bales of No. 20s. prices showing an advance of 2 to 3 taels and market closing strong. Estimated unsold 65,000.

Japanese.—Total sales 2,800 bales of Nos. 16s, and 20s. on the basis of Tls. 81½ to Tls. 83½ for No. 16s, and Tls. 82 to Tls. 85 No. 20s. Estimated unsold stock about 18,100 bales market closing strong, prices showing an advance of 2 to 3 Taels.

Local.—Dispairing to get any further advance in prices and being tired of waiting, spinners have at last come down in their ideas of values and about 5,400 bales are reported to have changed hands on the basis of Tls. 74½ to 77½ for No. 10s, Tls. 76½ to 80 for No. 12s and Tls. 79 to 82½ for No. 14s, and Tls. 11 to 12½ for No. 16s, market closing firm.

Exchange on India has slightly improved but shows signs of weakness at close. Rates are Tls. 145½ for F. T. and Rs. 146 for Post. On Shanghai 71½.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 16th March.—The downward tendency continues, market being very weak. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.85 to 2.90
Round, Good quality	3.15 to 3.20
Long	3.35 to 3.40
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ..	3.10 to 3.15
Garden, No. 1 ..	3.35 to 3.40
White	3.80 to 3.85
Fine Cargo	1.15 to 1.2

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 16th March.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn:—1,100 bales No. 10 at \$94 to \$103, 450 bales No. 12 at \$91 to \$102, 250 bales No. 16 at \$102 to \$104, 1,150 bales No. 20 at \$103 to \$114.

METALS.—Quicksilver.—200 flasks at \$178. Iron.—6,720 piculs square, round, and flat bars at \$6.60, 300 wire rods at \$8.15 to arrive, 2,000 bundles small round rods at \$7.40. Tinplates.—200 cases at \$8.75. Steel.—2,000 bundles at \$7.40.

COTTON YARN—	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s	\$ 86.00 to \$116.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24,	114.00 to 120.00
22 to 24,	116.00 to 122.00
28 to 32,	129.00 to 133.00
38 to 42,	147.00 to 154.00
COTTON PIECE GOODS—	per piece

Grey Shirtings 6lbs.	2.00 to 2.10
7lbs.	2.20 to 2.25
8.4 lbs.	2.95 to 3.80
9 to 10 lbs.	3.90 to 4.85

White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.75 to 2.95
58 to 60 ..	3.25 to 3.95
64 to 66 ..	4.25 to 5.00
Fine	5.20 to 8.00
Book-folds ..	4.55 to 6.45
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ..	0.80 to 1.60
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.85 to 2.00
7lbs. (32 ..) ..	2.10 to 2.30
6lbs. (32 ..), Mexs.	2.00 to 2.20
7lbs. (32 ..) ..	2.35 to 2.90
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) ..	2.90 to 3.60
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16lbs.	4.30 to 7.20

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8lbs.	per piece 1.75 to 7.20
Brocades—Dyed	4.20 — 5.70
Chintzes—Assorted	per yard 0.08½ to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in	0.26 to 0.65
Velveteens—18 in	0.23½ to 0.28
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk ..	per dozen 0.40 to 2.50

WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	per yard 1.00 to 1.75
German	— to —
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.	1.55 to 1.75
Long Ells—Scarlet	per piece 6.80 to 10.40
Assorted	6.90 to 10.50
Camlets—Assorted	13.50 to 39.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted ..	10.50 to 23.00
Orleans—Plain	8.50 to 10.00
Blankets—8 to 12lbs.	per pair 4.20 to 16.00

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	per picul 6.50 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar(Eng.) ..	6.60 to —
Swedish Bar	8.50 to —
Small Round Rod	7.50 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	8.00 to —
Wire 15/25	10.25 to —
Old Wire Rope	3.00 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop ..	10.50 to —
Australian	10.60 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/20 oz.	42.50 to —
Vivian's, 14/20 oz.	42.50 to —
Elliot's, 14/20 oz.	42.50 to —
New Chop, 14/20 oz.	42.75 to —
Composition Nails	65.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	40.00 to —
Tin	85.00 to —
Tin-Plates	per box 8.70 to —
Steel ½ to 1	per cwt. case 7.50 to —

SUNDRIES—

Quicksilver	per picul 175.00 to —
Window Glass	per box 6.25 to —
Kerosene Oil	per 10-gal. case 2.01 to —

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 16th March

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	111½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight ..	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight ..	2/0

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	2.46
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.50½

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	200½
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight	48½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	145½
Bank, on demand	146

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	15½
Bank, on demand	146

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.
HONGKONG.

March—

ARRIVALS.

10. Szechuen, British str., from Wuhn.
 10. Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 10. Wingsang, British str., from Swatow.
 10. Taiwan, British str., from Canton.
 10. Decima, German str., from Saigon.
 10. Glenartney, British str., from Singapore.
 10. Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.
 10. Laos, French str., from Shanghai.
 10. Yedo Maru, Japanese str., from Chefoo.
 10. Sazanami, Jap. torpedo boat, from S'pore.
 11. Baron Ardrossan, Brit. str., from Batoum.
 11. Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
 11. Melpomene, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 11. Menmuir, British str., from Manila.
 11. Prometheus, British str., from Liverpool.
 11. Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
 11. Evie J. Ray, Amr. bark, from Singapore.
 11. John Currier, Amr. ship, from New York.
 11. Choyang, British str., from Canton.
 11. Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
 11. Michael Jebson, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 11. Sullberg, German str., from Saigon.
 11. Tategami Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 12. Annam, French str., from Marseilles.
 12. Australian, British str., from Kobe.
 12. Braemar, British str., from Moji.
 12. Hua, French str., from Haiphong.
 12. Macduff, British str., from Saigon.
 12. Teenkai, British str., from Amoy.
 12. Hunan, British str., from Canton.
 12. Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
 12. Ningpo, British str., from Canton.
 12. Benlawers, British str., from Moji.
 12. Pukuehi, Japanese gunboat, from Amoy.
 13. Arratoon Apar, British str., from Calcutta.
 13. Bankoku Maru, Jap. str., from Manila.
 13. Canton, British str., from Shanghai.
 13. Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 13. Heidelberg, German str., from Hamburg.
 13. Siam, British str., from Bangkok.
 13. Taksang, British str., from Bangkok.
 13. Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 13. Frans Ferdinand, Aust. str., from Kobe.
 13. D'Entrecasteaux, French flagship, from Toulon.
 13. Amigo, German str., from Saigon.
 13. Victoria, British str., from Manila.
 14. Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
 14. Hai Tien, Chinese cruiser, from Foochow.
 14. Bingo Maru, Japanese str., from London.
 14. Kweiyang, British str., from Cebu.
 14. Maiduru Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
 14. Bohilla, British str., from Yokohama.
 14. Mengkut, British str., from Bangkok.
 15. Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
 15. Bisagno, Italian str., from Bombay.
 15. Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
 15. Ormazan, British str., from Moji.
 15. Yangtze, British str., from Glasgow.
 15. Kersaint, French cruiser, from Canton.
 15. Anapa, British str., from Barry.
 16. Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
 16. Tamba Maru, Japanese str., from London.
 16. Coromandel, British str., from Shanghai.
 16. C. B. Kian, British str., from Singapore.
 16. Hating, French str., from Haiphong.
 16. Chowtai, British str., from Bangkok.
 16. Queen Adelaide, British str., from Saigon.
 16. Urano, Austrian str., from Bombay.
 16. Massilia, British str., from Bombay.
- March—
 DEPARTURES.
 10. Kongo, Japanese cruiser, for Japan.
 10. Hiei, Japanese cruiser, for Japan.
 10. Hermes, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
 10. Kansu, British str., for Shanghai.
 10. Daphne, German str., for Vladivostok.
 10. Germania, German str., for Hoihow.
 10. Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 10. Dart, British str., for Bangkok.
 10. Pakshan, British str., for Swatow.
 10. Oyo Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 10. Szechuen, British str., for Canton.
 10. Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.
 10. Hector, British str., for Shanghai.
 10. Monmouthshire, British str., for Portland.
 10. Changsha, British str., for Sydney.
 10. Riojun Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
 10. Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for K'otsu.
 11. Kenmore, British str., for Shanghai.
 11. Clara, German str., for Hoihow.
 11. Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.

11. Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 11. Taiwan, British str., for Shanghai.
 11. Dorio, British str., for San Francisco.
 11. Tamsui Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 11. Candia, British str., for Shanghai.
 12. Laos, French str., for Europe.
 12. Nestor, British str., for London.
 12. Talles, German str., for Swatow.
 12. Sabin, Rickmers, British str., for Tamsui.
 12. Tientsin, British str., for Shanghai.
 12. Ningpo, British str., for Shanghai.
 12. Kweilin, British str., for Tientsin.
 12. Onsang, British str., for Singapore.
 12. Shanghai, British str., for Shanghai.
 12. Alacrity, British d.-v., for Macao.
 12. Undaunted, British str., for Amoy.
 12. Hermione, British str., for Shanghai.
 12. Annam, French str., for Shanghai.
 13. Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 13. Decima, German str., for Saigon.
 13. Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 13. Nanyang, German str., for Chefoo.
 13. Baron Ardrossan, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
 13. Ariel, Norw. str., for Kutchinotsu.
 13. Michael Jebson, German str., for Saigon.
 13. Phraang, British str., for Bangkok.
 13. Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 13. Prometheus, British str., for Shanghai.
 13. Choyang, British str., for Shanghai.
 13. Suisang, British str., for Calcutta.
 14. Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 14. Hunan, British str., for Shanghai.
 14. Sandakan, German str., for Sandakan.
 14. Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 14. Bankoku Maru, Japanese str., for Hongay.
 14. Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
 14. Canton, British str., for Canton.
 14. Thyra, Norw. str., for San Francisco.
 14. Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 14. Teenkai, British str., for London.
 14. Tategami Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 14. Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
 15. Benlawer, British str., for Bangkok.
 15. Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 15. Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
 15. Australian, British str., for Sydney.
 15. Glenartney, British str., for Shanghai.
 15. Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 15. Yedo Maru, Japanese str., for Chefoo.
 15. F. Ferdinand, Austrian str., for Trieste.
 15. Bingo Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 15. Pascal, French cruiser, for Yokohama.
 16. Taifu, German str., for Saigon.
 16. Heidelberg, German str., for Yokohama.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Nippon Maru*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr and Mrs Geo. H. Williams and infant, Mrs F. H. Russey, Messrs Frank Moran, G. H. Medhurst, E. J. Bates, Geo. Arms, G. C. Scott, A. J. Pastene, R. E. McFie, F. L. Burton, C. S. Hill, Dr. F. McCallum, Messrs Geo. Trimble, Geo. E. Friable, Mr and Mrs G. B. Sperry, Master Sperry, Messrs Pow Hin Hing and T. Nakazawa.

Per *Laos*, for Hongkong, from Shanghai, Messrs. Meyer, Levy, P. Kremer, Chuk Hang Ching, Sa Man Sin, Sorabjee N. Harowjee, G. Peerbhoy, P. Kowas Kowski, J. Munarmi and servant, H. N. Murray, MacLindolsey, E. W. Williamson, Caming and servant, King Chun Kee, W. Innam and Talati; from Yokohama, Mr Josul Ahomed; from Nagasaki, Mr Corriard; for Saigon, from Shanghai, Mr E. V. Lisen; for Singapore from Shanghai, Messrs Albert Mohr, Gardner and Mohamed Handé; from Kobe, Mr Tokawa; for Colombo, from Shanghai, Mr R. C. Jameson; from Yokohama, Mr Lynam, Major Sarkies, Messrs Tanaka, Shimoniya and Smith; from Kobe, Mr Nagahashi; for Marseilles, from Shanghai, Mr and Miss Busheiter, Mr Quei Tse King, Mrs Espeson, Mr Ssie Tamine, Mrs Ly, Mrs Wang and Mr Lyon; from Yokohama, Messrs Luther, Kawakita, Tatsui, Assamuma, Fukagawa, Ishikawa, Nakas, Shiranana, Kitahama, Matsumoto, Katayama and Ogawa; from Kobe, Mr Martin, Mr and Mrs de Luy Fousarion, Mr and Mrs E. Wail, 5 children and 1 Japanese servant, Sister St. Jean, Messrs Kubota and Takehashi, Misses Suzuki and Utsui; from Nagasaki, Mr Alenque.

Per *Annam*, from Marseilles for Hongkong, Messrs F. Dreyfus and Ch. Weill; from Batavia, Mr. Waldemer Timm; from Singapore, Messrs. Yan Fat Chin, Chen, Chee Song, How

Yan Chi, Beng Seen Soon, Klemesow and Junod; from Saigon, Messrs L. Gledard, Von Meyer, C. Robelen and Yeng Seeng.

Per *Arratoon Apar*, from Calcutta, &c., Mr. Fish, Mr. and Mrs. Agabeg, 2 children, nurse and servant, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Woods and child and Mr. Lum Wing.

Per *Bohilla*, from Yokohama for Hongkong, Messrs. R. W. Hutchinson, Cheong Kee and Chan Son Men; for Colombo, Mr. A. J. McClure; for London, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. S. Perry and Miss Hughes; from Kobe, for Hongkong, Mr. Kwong Yong Sang, Messrs. Brummer and Blake; for Hongkong, Miss Evans; from Nagasaki, for London, Mrs. Robertson.

Per *Bingo Maru*, from London, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Hazeland, Rev. F. L. Norris, Mr. C. Williams, Miss C. Smart, Mr. H. Bell, Mrs. M. MacCallum, Miss A. MacCallum, Messrs. E. C. Ray, C. R. Winta, Adem Koot, Andre Ratkow, Low Tang Kuang and Mrs. L. Kuang; for Japan, Miss E. Hamer, Mr. M. Morita, Mrs. Bryce, Messrs. H. Clarkes, H. Furuya and C. Hosokawa.

DEPARTED.

Per *Laos*, from Hongkong, for Saigon, Mr. San Guan and boy, Mr. Casobon and 39 Chinese; for Singapore, Messrs E. Manisty, Wong and boy, Lau and boy, Mrs. Chan and amah; Rev. Santos Paredes, 17 Chinese and 1 Japanese; for Colombo, Capt. C. B. Simonds; for Marseilles, Mr and Mrs Pitzipios and child, Mr. Ozawa, Mrs. C. B. Simonds, Messrs L. Gillet, W. E. McGill, Mrs. Fairall and Mr G. E. Freshknecht.

Per *Dorio*, for Shanghai, Mr and Mrs H. Grun, Mr. Po Rosenbaum and native servant, Lieut. W. S. Hogg, Mr. Law Ching Chun, Lieut. Code and one Indian man; for Nagasaki, Mr. Kinsata; for Kobe, Mr and Mrs Ward Ames, Mrs. A. S. Rice, Miss E. A. Rice, Mrs. Wright, Miss Penny Wright, Miss S. C. Cochran, Miss G. A. O'Brien and Miss M. L. O'Brien; for Yokohama, Mr and Mrs Skrimshire, Mr. A. Fleet, Mr and Mrs A. M. Drake; for San Francisco, Messrs P. R. Thomason, Mr. Hoadley, Mr and Mrs W. H. Cawthra, Rev. W. C. Owen, Mrs. Dr. Breed, Mrs. C. F. Snow, Miss Dorothy Snow, Mr J. McLean Lachlan, Mrs. Wee How, Mrs. Jew Shee, Mr and Mrs F. Boice, Miss Boice, Messrs Albert E. Castle and Robt. B. Israel; for New York, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Downie, Miss Downie, Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Findlay; for Washington, Mrs. C. M. Knepper; for London, Messrs S. Halliwell, P. L. Wright, and H. Gulbenkian.

Per *Annam*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Messrs. V. Blockhuys, G. B. Allen, Palliot, H. S. Rosenthal, Baron Hartogensis and valet, Mrs. Cummings and maid, Mrs. M. Murokami, Mrs. A. R. Carvalho, Miss Carvalho, Messrs. K. Nagasawa, J. J. d'Andrade, M. Jouli and three Chinese; for Nagasaki, Mr. Gondareau and four Japanese; for Kobe, Rev. Cotin; for Yokohama, Rev. Lafon, Messrs. Lo and Pon Jon Chaw.

Per *Empress of Japan*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr and Mrs W. H. Poate, Messrs A. K. Rhoden, H. Sopper, Frank A. Blake, E. S. Mullins, Dr. T. M. Sibbald, Messrs T. Takashada and S. Harada; for Nagasaki, Mr and Mrs O. W. Lindholm, Misses N. and H. Lindholm, Miss A. Lindholm and governess; for Kobe, Mrs. A. J. McGlew; for Yokohama, Mrs. J. Bruce and maid, Messrs. L. L. Bailey and J. A. Heffron, Mr. Chun Seng and servant, Mr and Mrs Chan Soo Shi, Mr. Tong Long and son; for Vancouver, Miss H. Batchelor, Mr and Mrs H. S. Denny, Messrs F. H. Denny, J. O. H. Denny, J. S. Van Buren and Mr and Mrs Tso New and servant; for Portland, Or., Bishop J. M. Thoburn and Mr L. E. Booth; for San Francisco, Mr E. W. Nardine and Mrs A. G. Roderiques; for Brockville, Ont., Rev and Mrs C. R. Woods and child; for Montreal, Mr and Mrs Sydney Haywood; for Liverpool, Mr H. A. Pattman; for London, Mr and Mrs R. Laidlaw, Rev and Mrs Thos. W. Pearce, Mr Arthur Lawton, Miss Lawton, Miss Jessie Lawton, Colonel A. H. Turner, C.B., Messrs G. B. Allen, G. Newcomen and valet and St. John Wayne; from Shanghai, for London, Miss S. G. Waller; for Paris, Mme. le Gonedec de Penlon.

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